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INVINCIBLE

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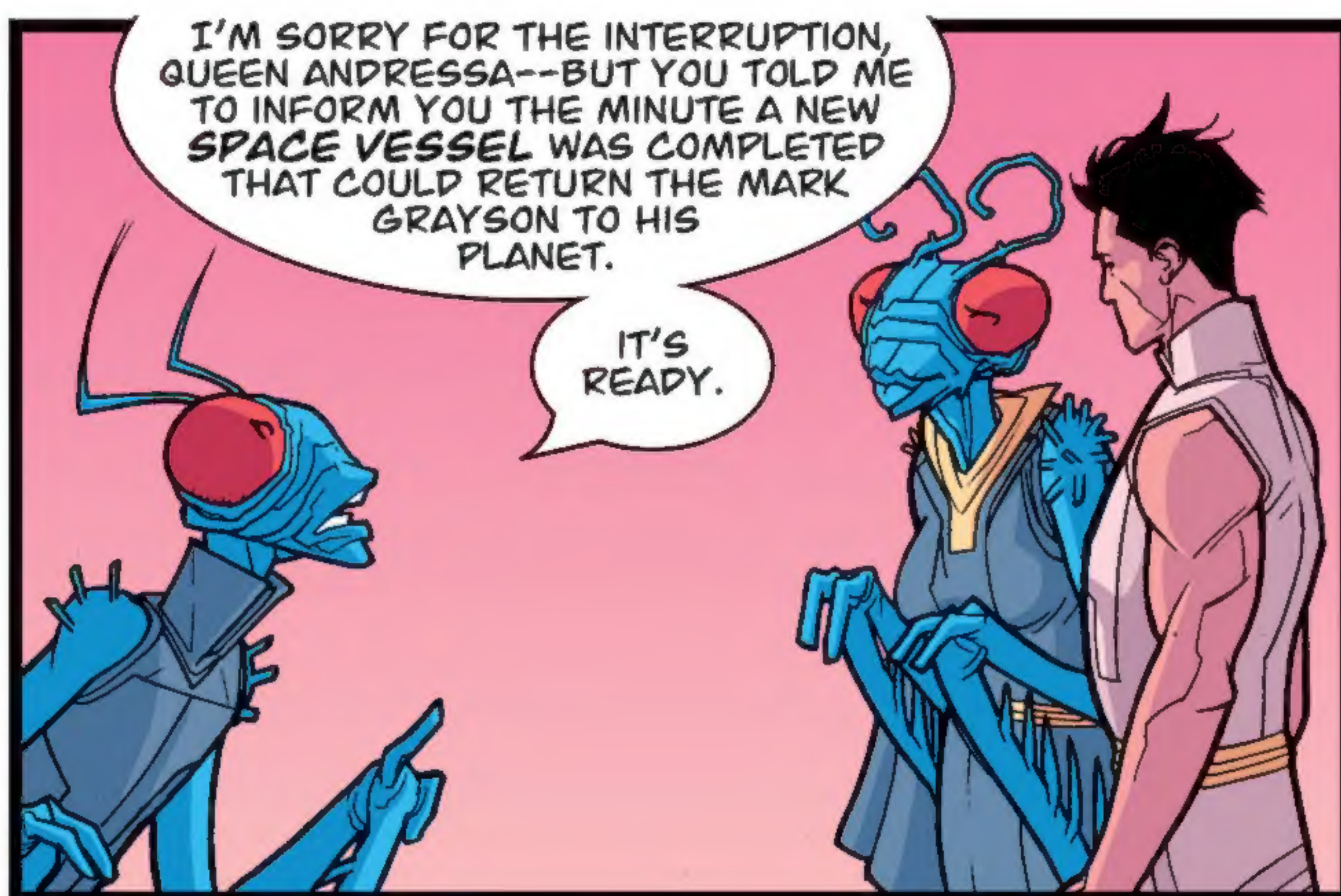
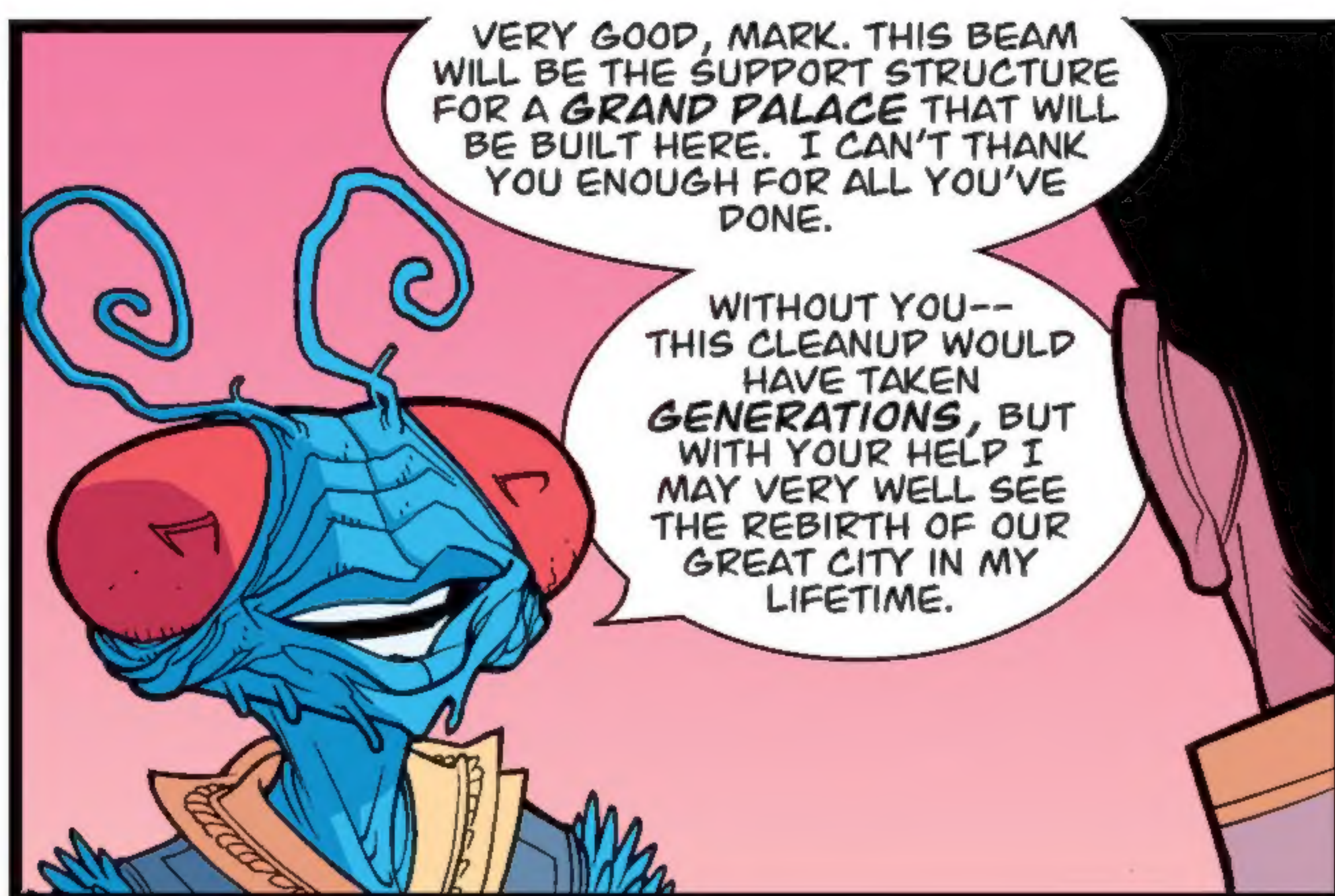
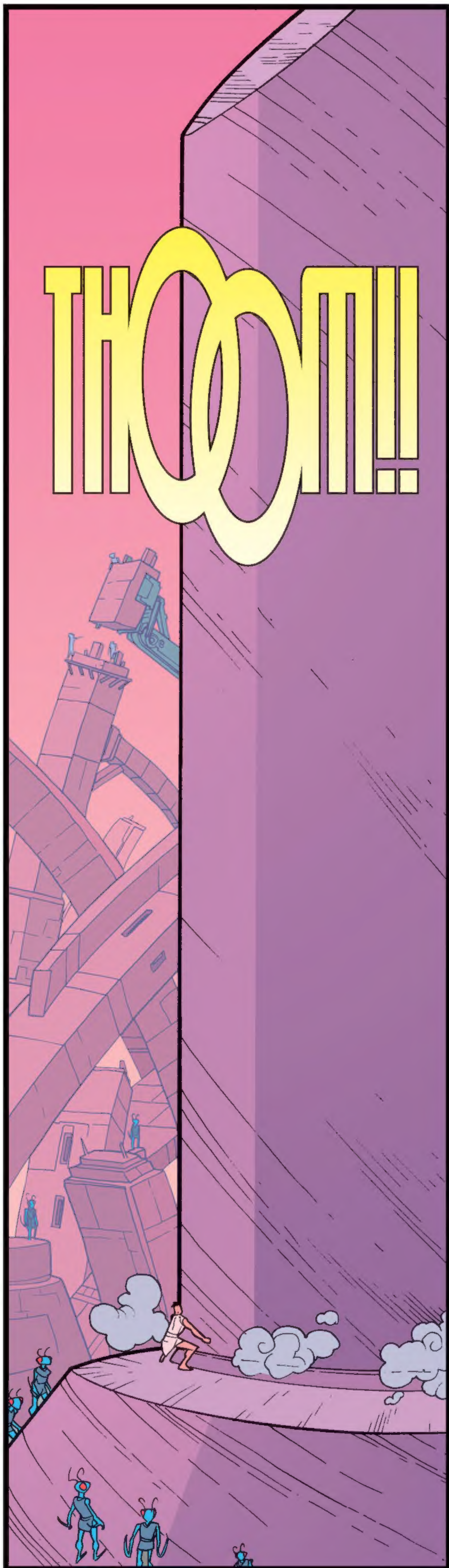
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ALMOST--

--THERE.





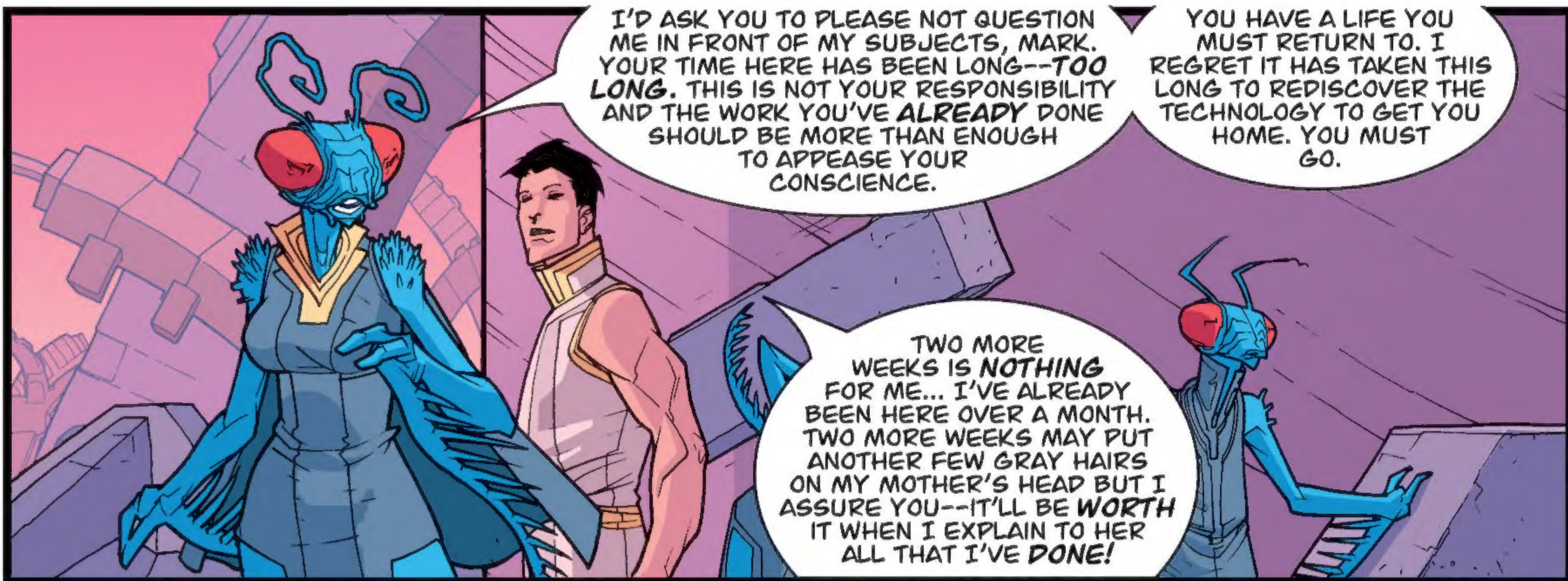
EXCELLENT. MAKE THE PREPARATIONS AT ONCE. I WANT THE SHIP PREPARED FOR LAUNCH BEFORE OUR SUNS BEGIN THEIR DECENT.

YES, QUEEN. YOUR WILL BE DONE.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M NOT THROUGH YET. WITH THE HELP OF YOUR ARCHITECTS I COULD HAVE THIS ENTIRE PALACE BUILT IN ANOTHER COUPLE WEEKS.

I CAN'T LEAVE NOW-- ESPECIALLY NOT TODAY.



I'D ASK YOU TO PLEASE NOT QUESTION ME IN FRONT OF MY SUBJECTS, MARK. YOUR TIME HERE HAS BEEN LONG--**TOO LONG**. THIS IS NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND THE WORK YOU'VE **ALREADY** DONE SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO APPEASE YOUR CONSCIENCE.

YOU HAVE A LIFE YOU MUST RETURN TO. I REGRET IT HAS TAKEN THIS LONG TO REDISCOVER THE TECHNOLOGY TO GET YOU HOME. YOU MUST GO.

TWO MORE WEEKS IS **NOTHING** FOR ME... I'VE **ALREADY** BEEN HERE OVER A MONTH. TWO MORE WEEKS MAY PUT ANOTHER FEW GRAY HAIRS ON MY MOTHER'S HEAD BUT I ASSURE YOU--IT'LL BE **WORTH** IT WHEN I EXPLAIN TO HER ALL THAT I'VE **DONE!**



NO. YOU MUST GO, MARK. YOU MUST GO AND BE WITH YOUR PEOPLE.

IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN YOU REMIND ME OF **HIM**--OF WHAT I LOST--



YEAH, MY DAD. I--



HE HAD TO COME BACK JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE ME CARE WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO HIM.



AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S GONE. A LIFE **ENDED** AFTER LASTING SO LONG--IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM **REAL**.

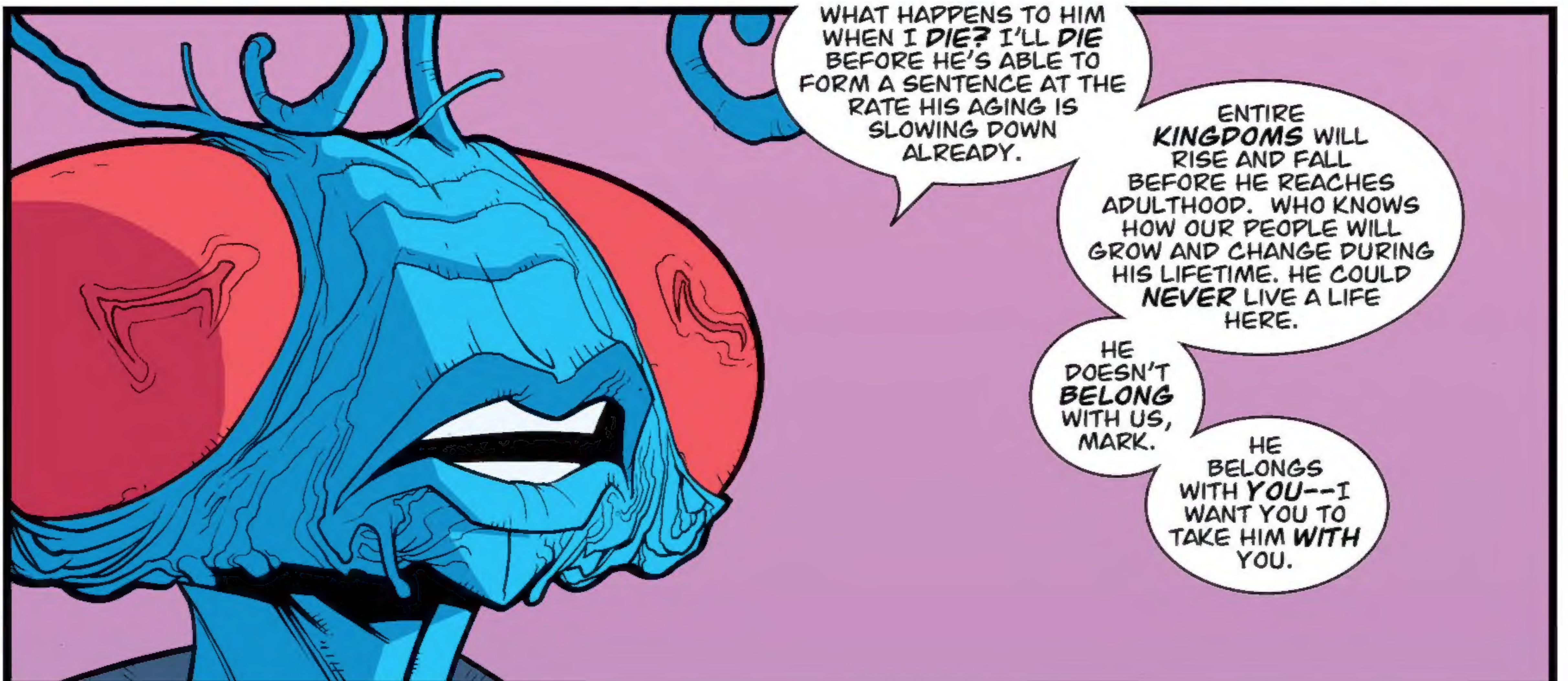
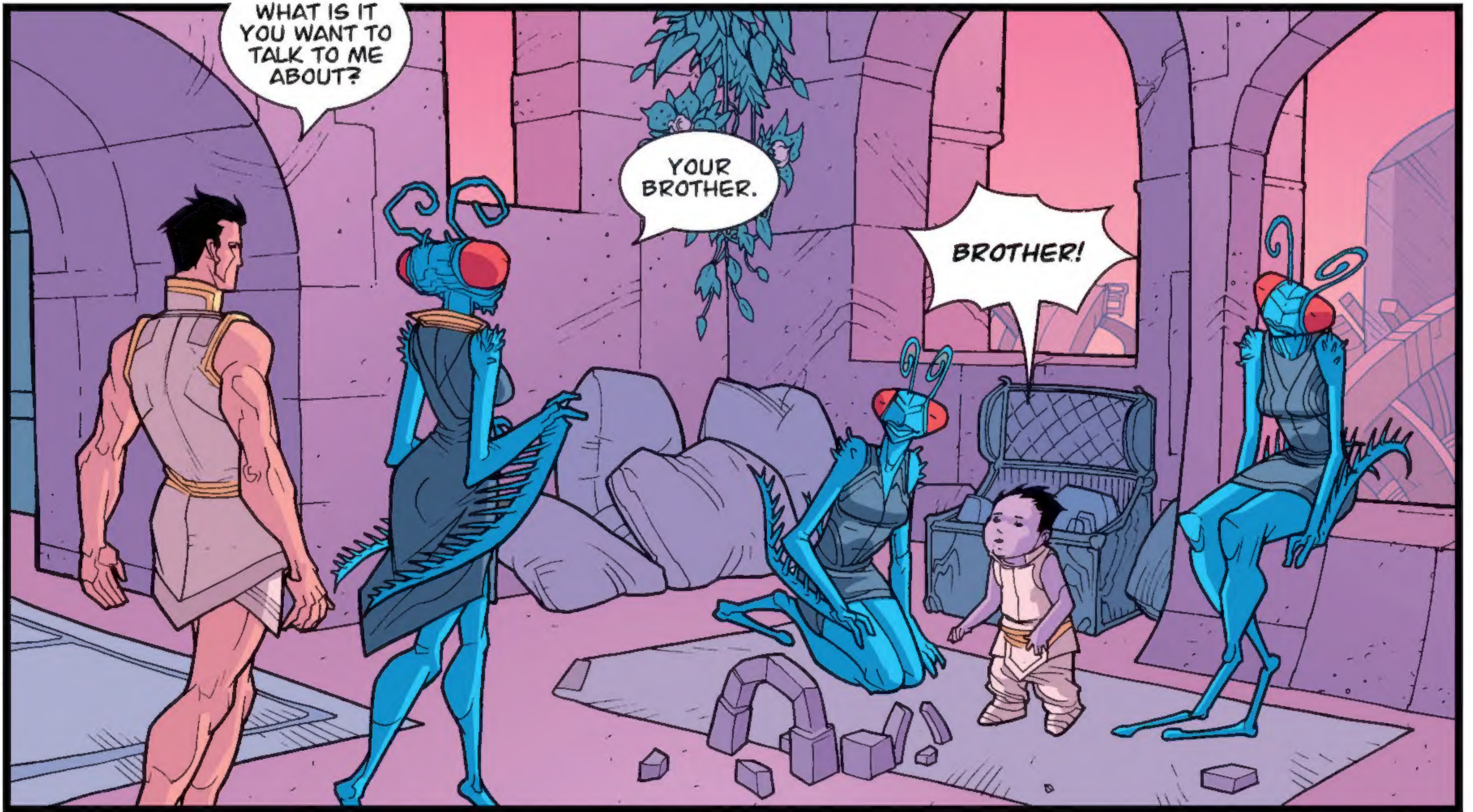


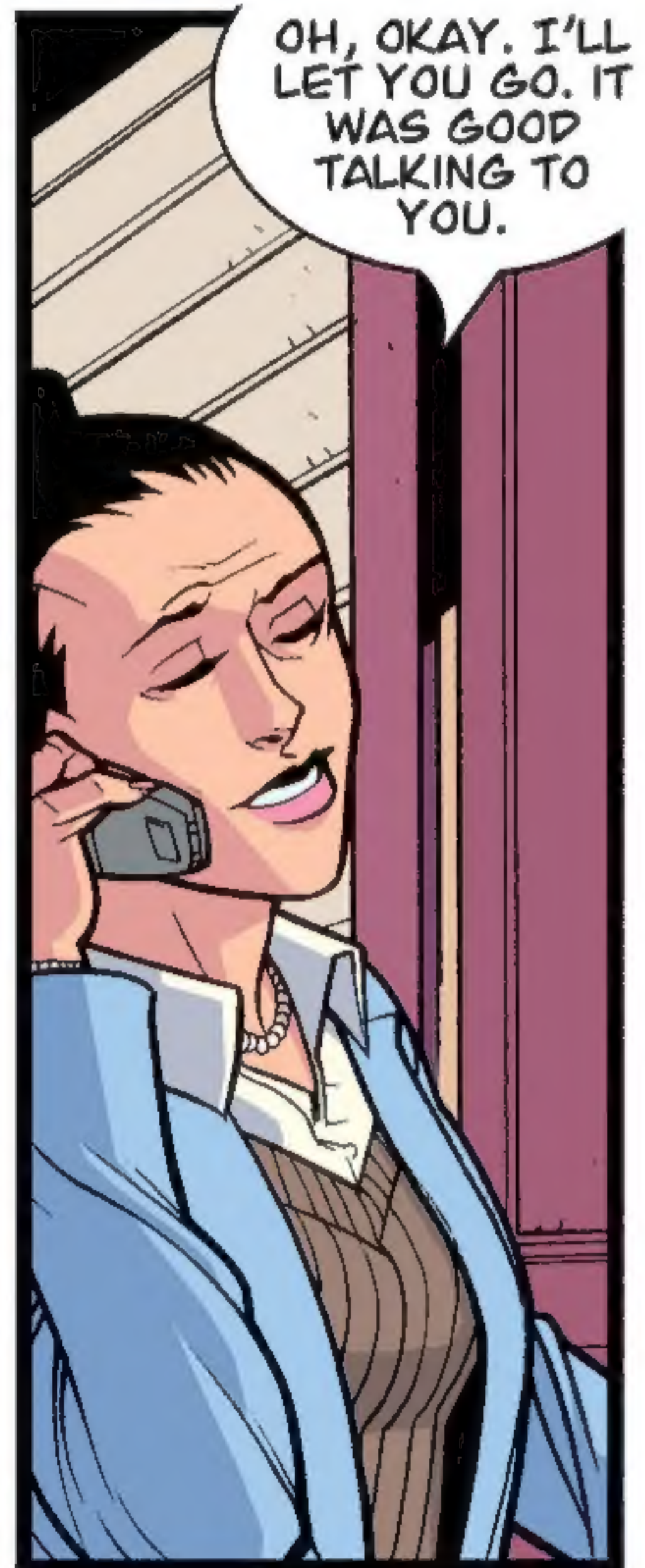
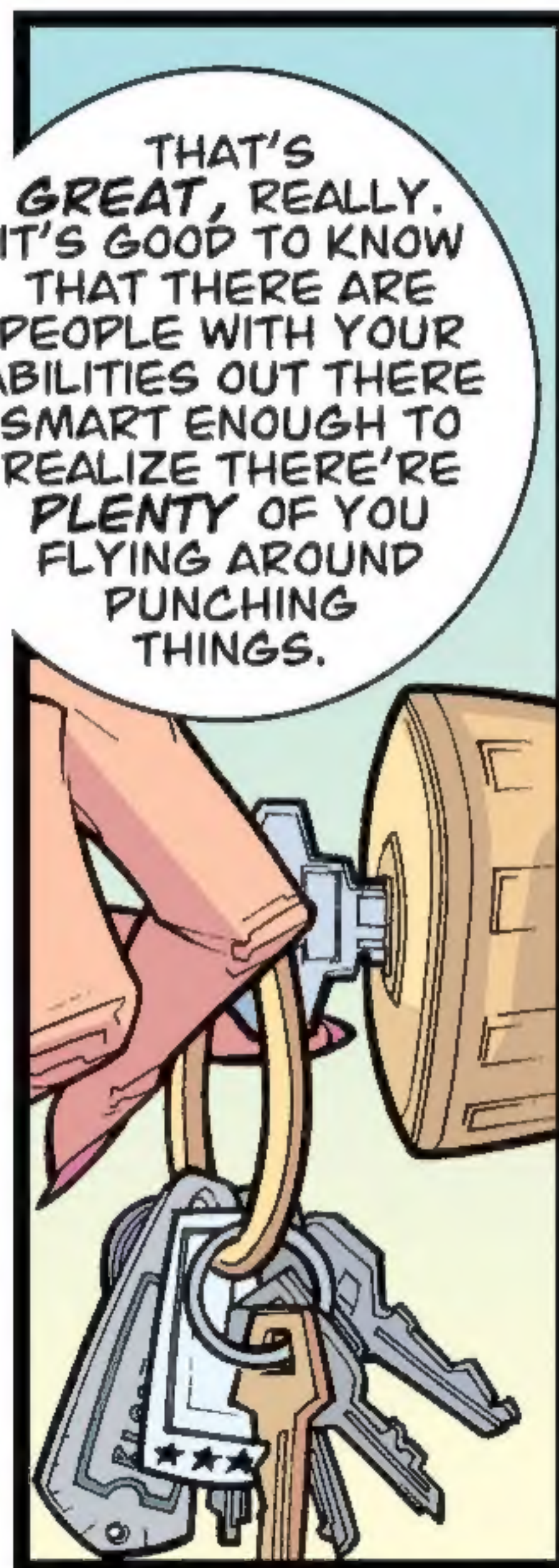
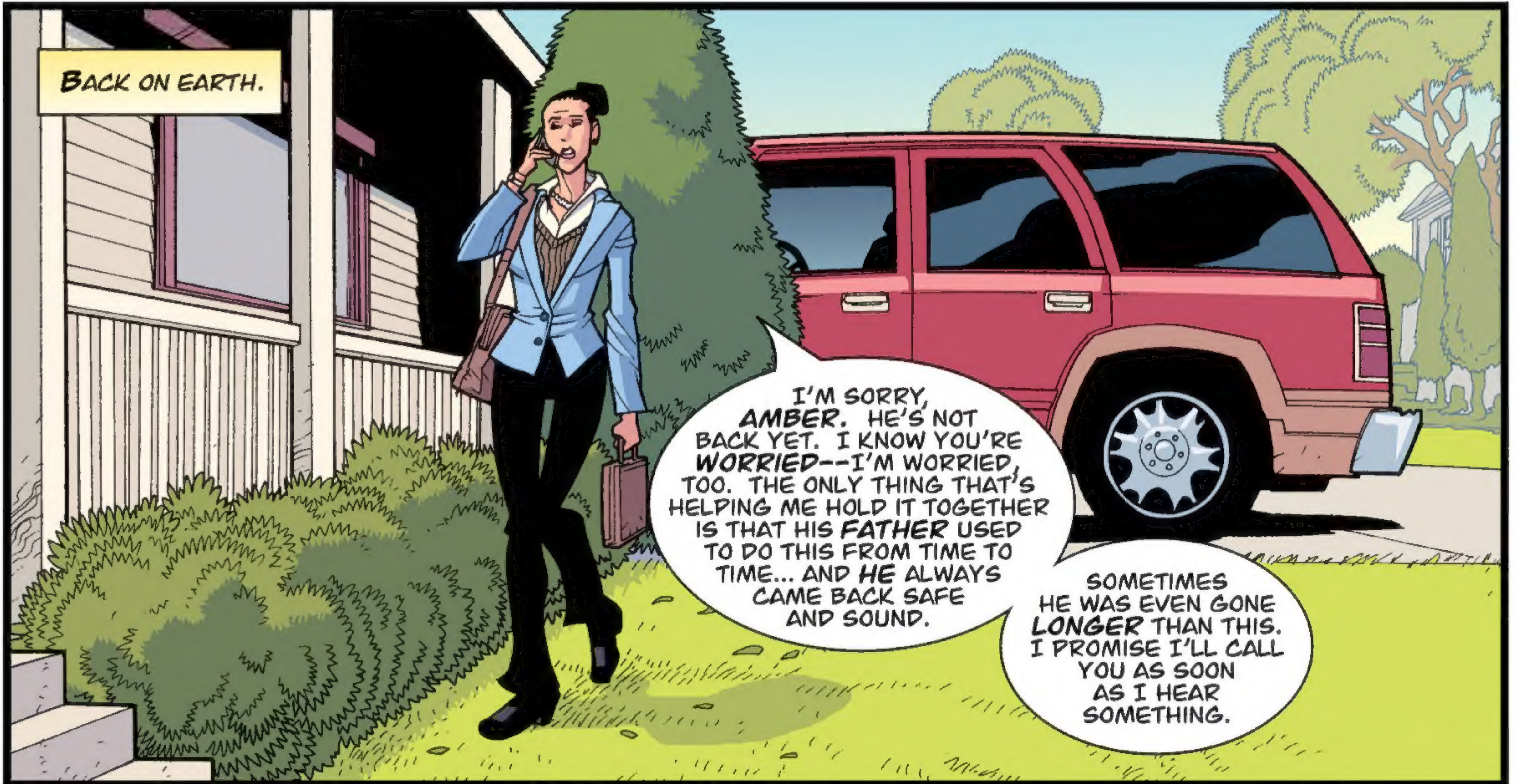
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT--DON'T SAY THAT. HE'S **NOT** DEAD. HE'LL GET OUT OF IT SOME WAY.

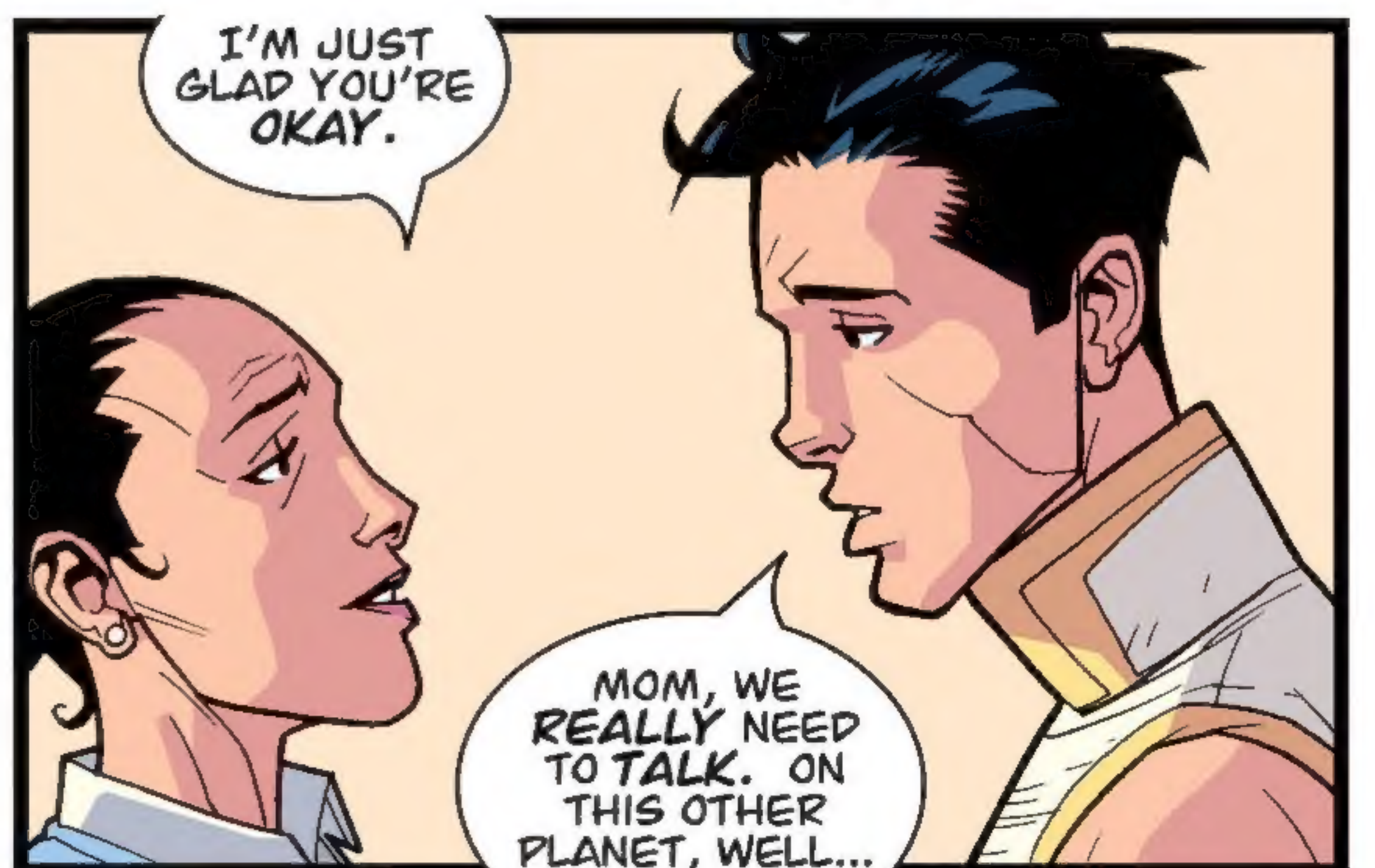
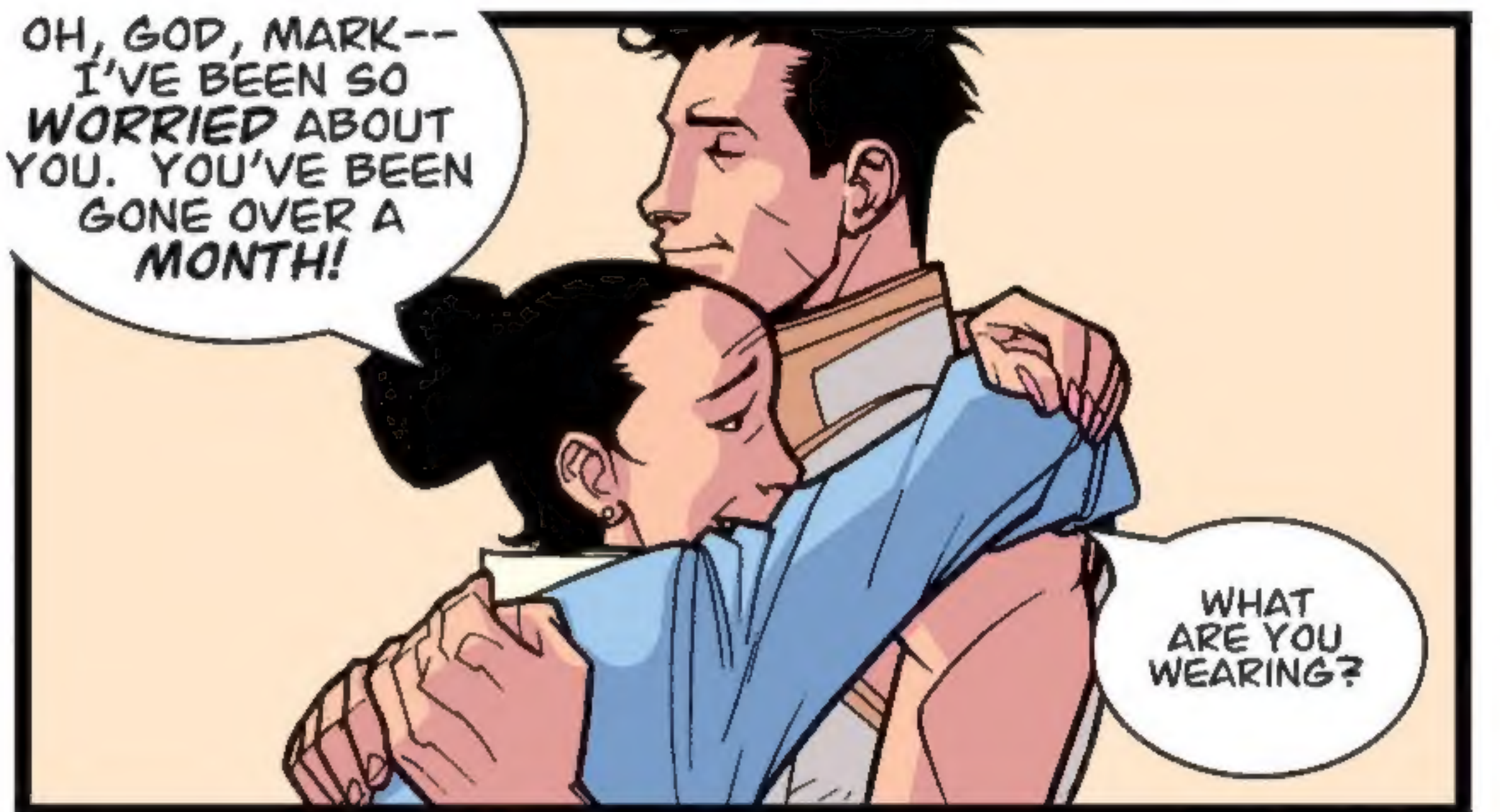
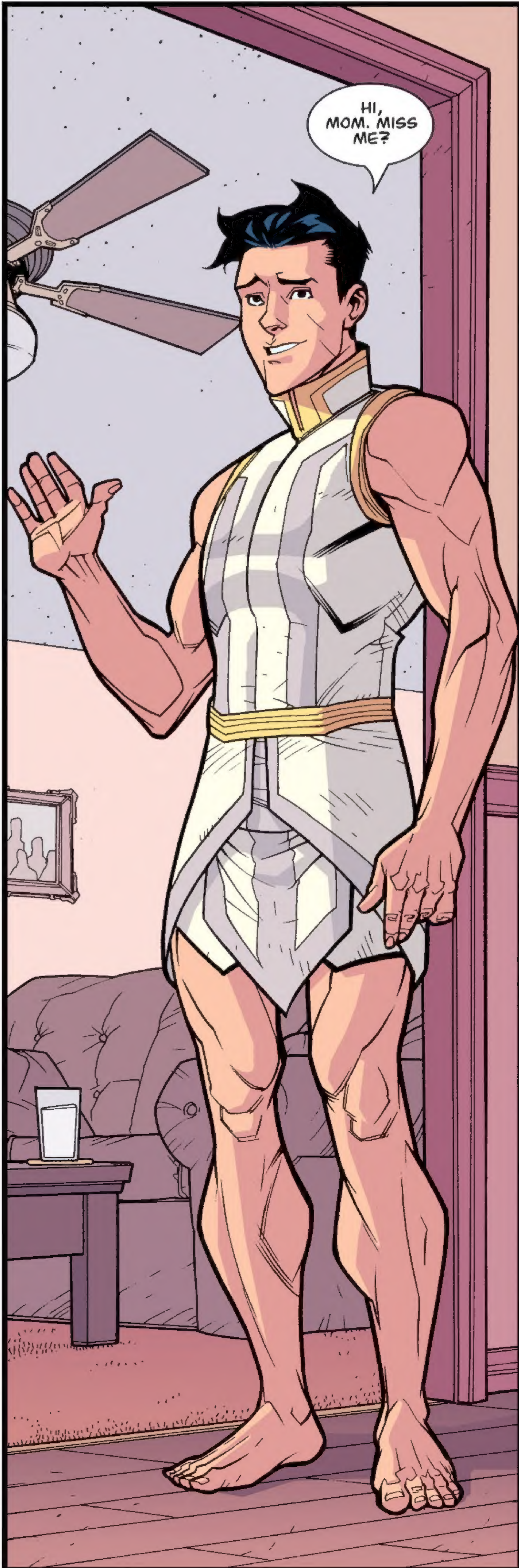


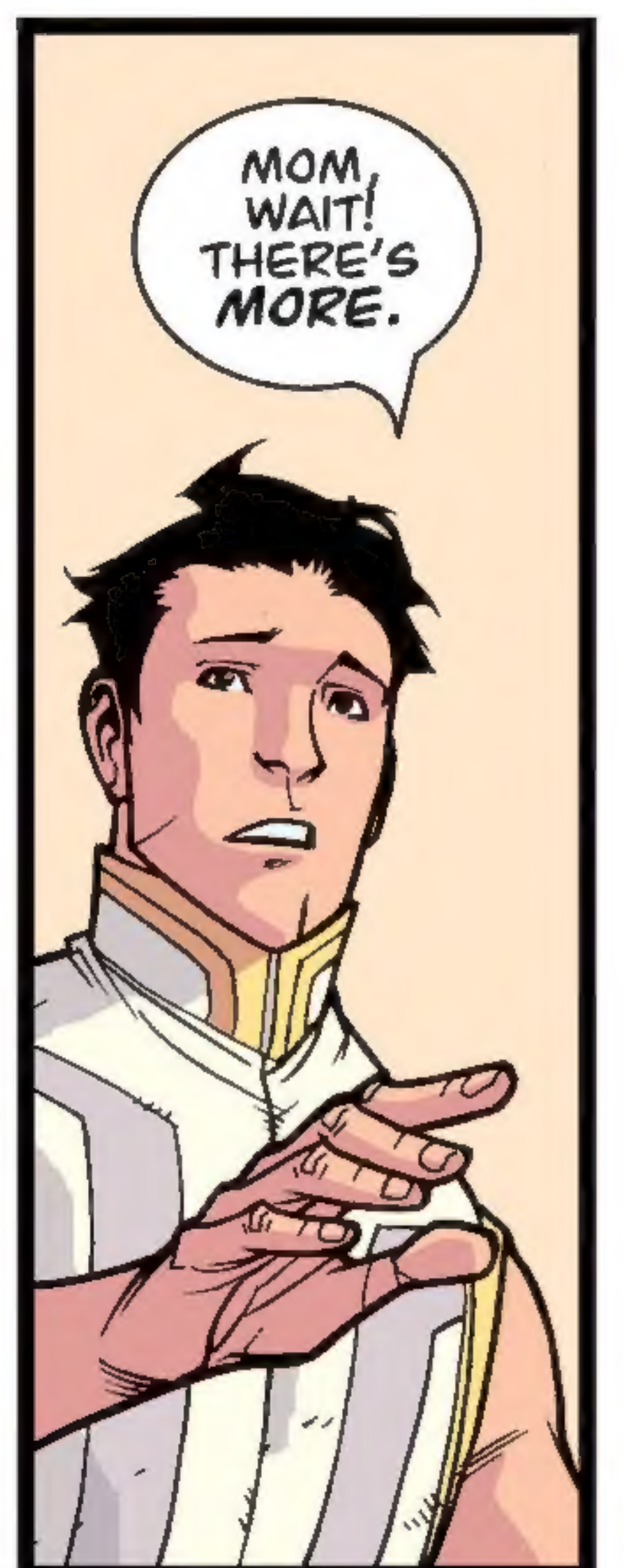
I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT. MORE THAN YOU COULD **EVER** KNOW.

NOW COME-- THERE IS MUCH WE MUST DISCUSS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE.

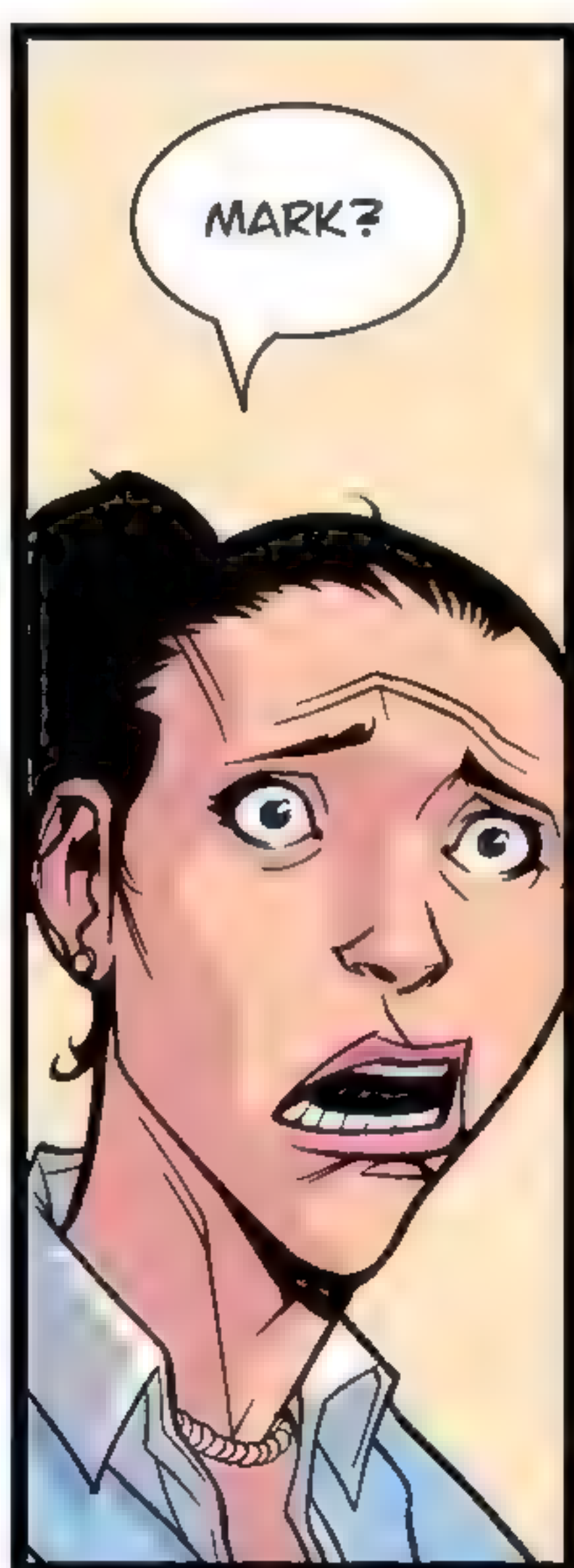
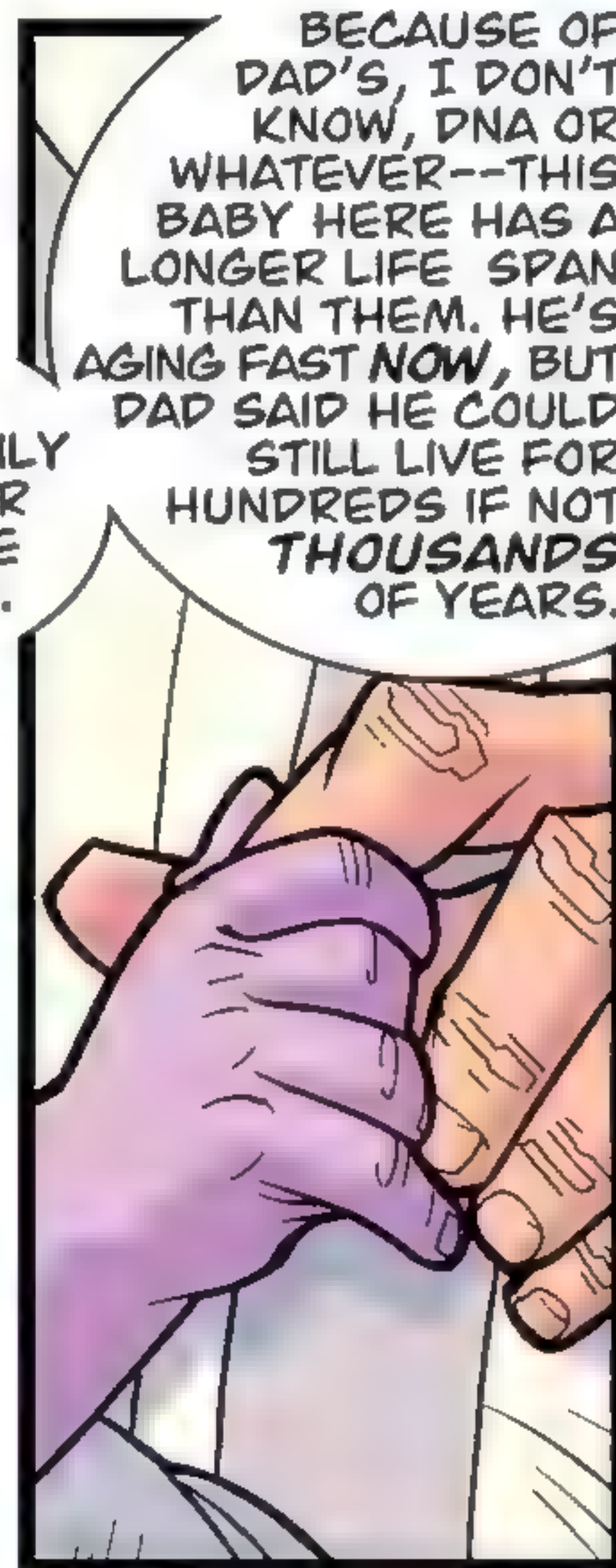
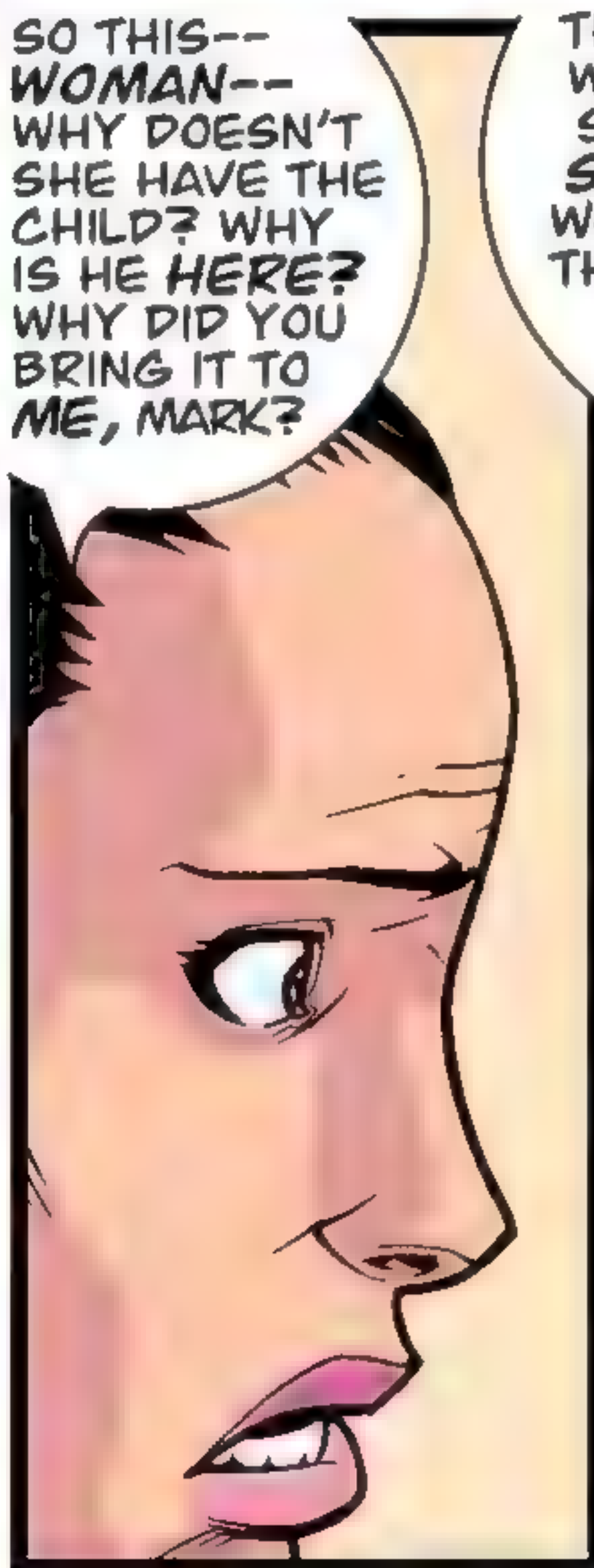
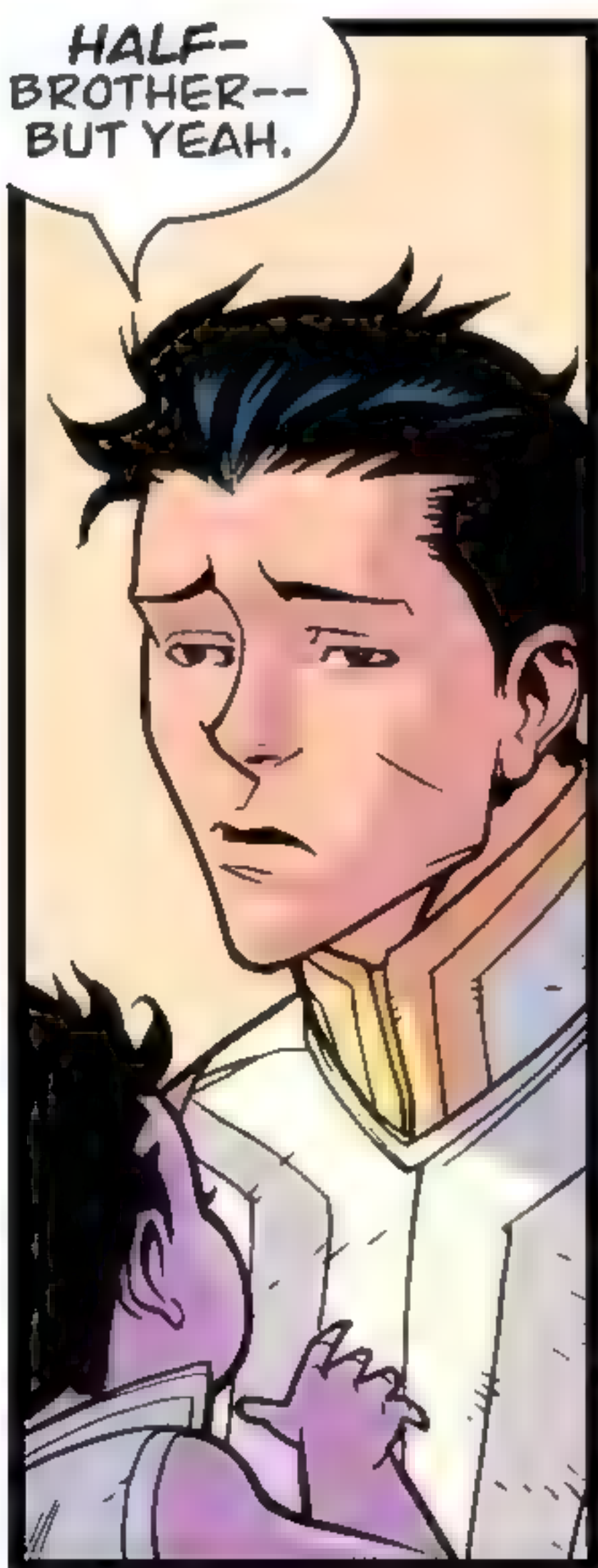
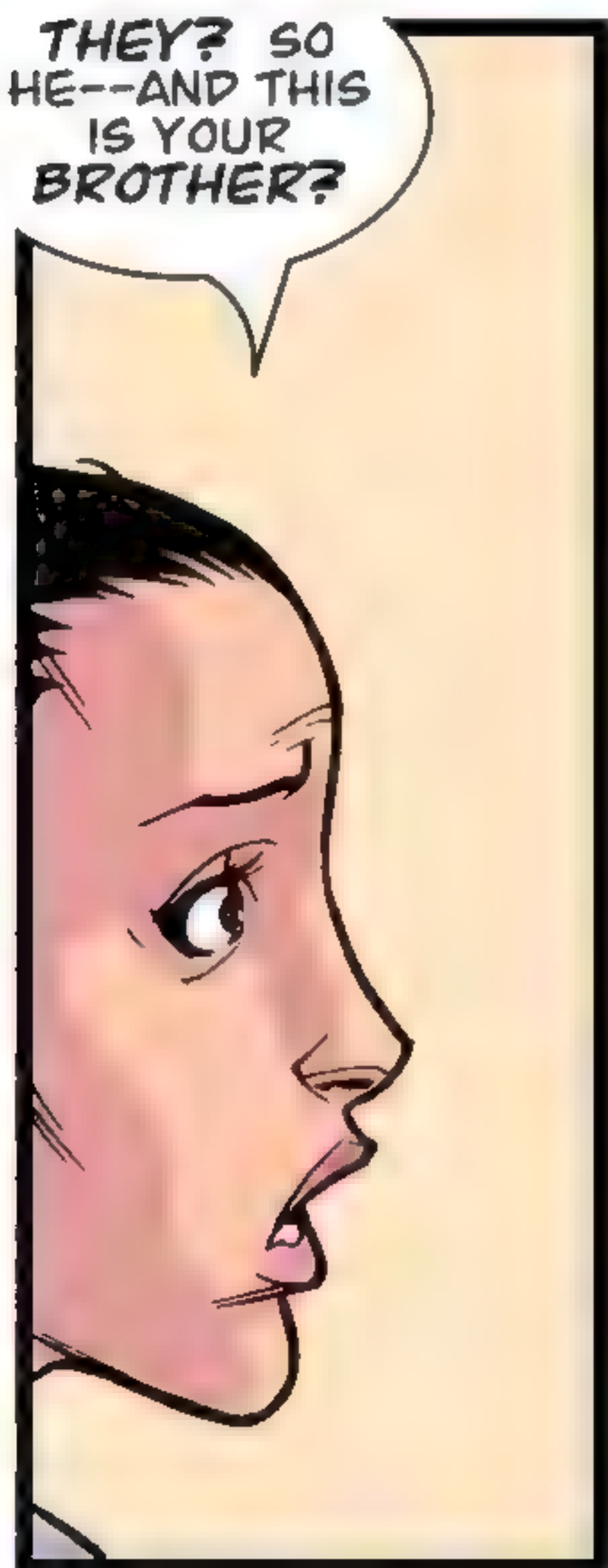
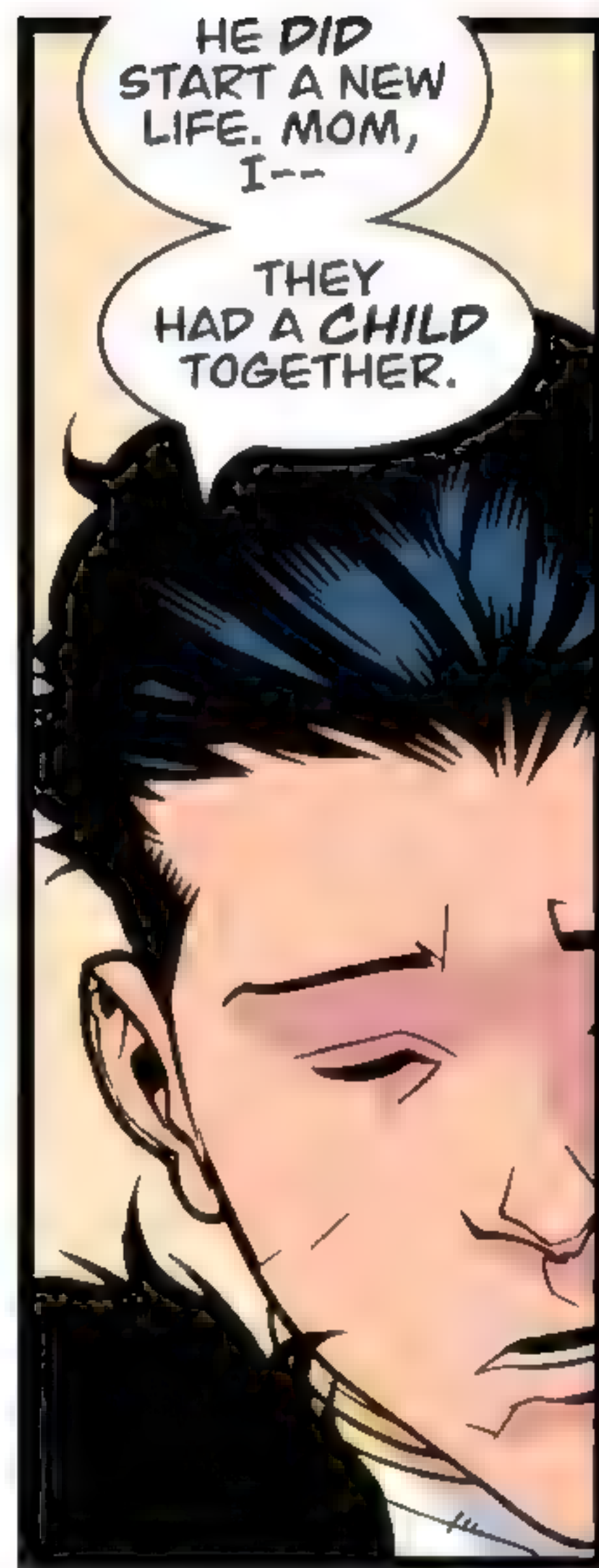
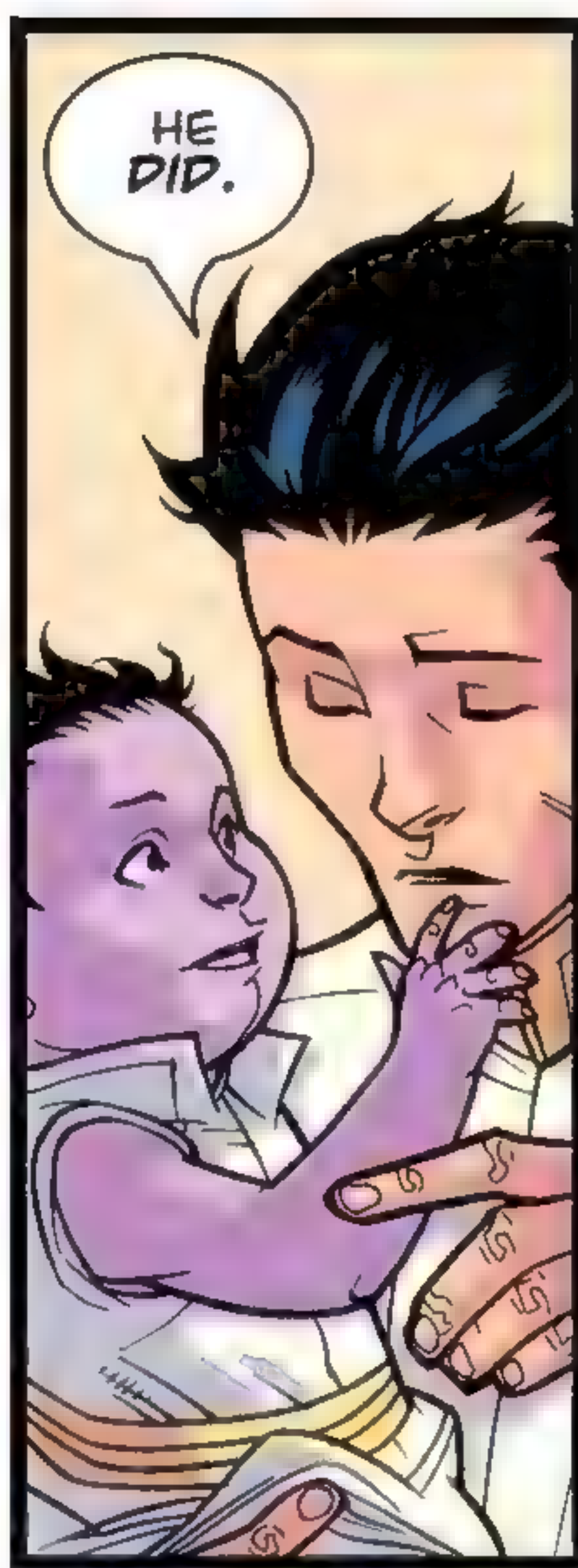
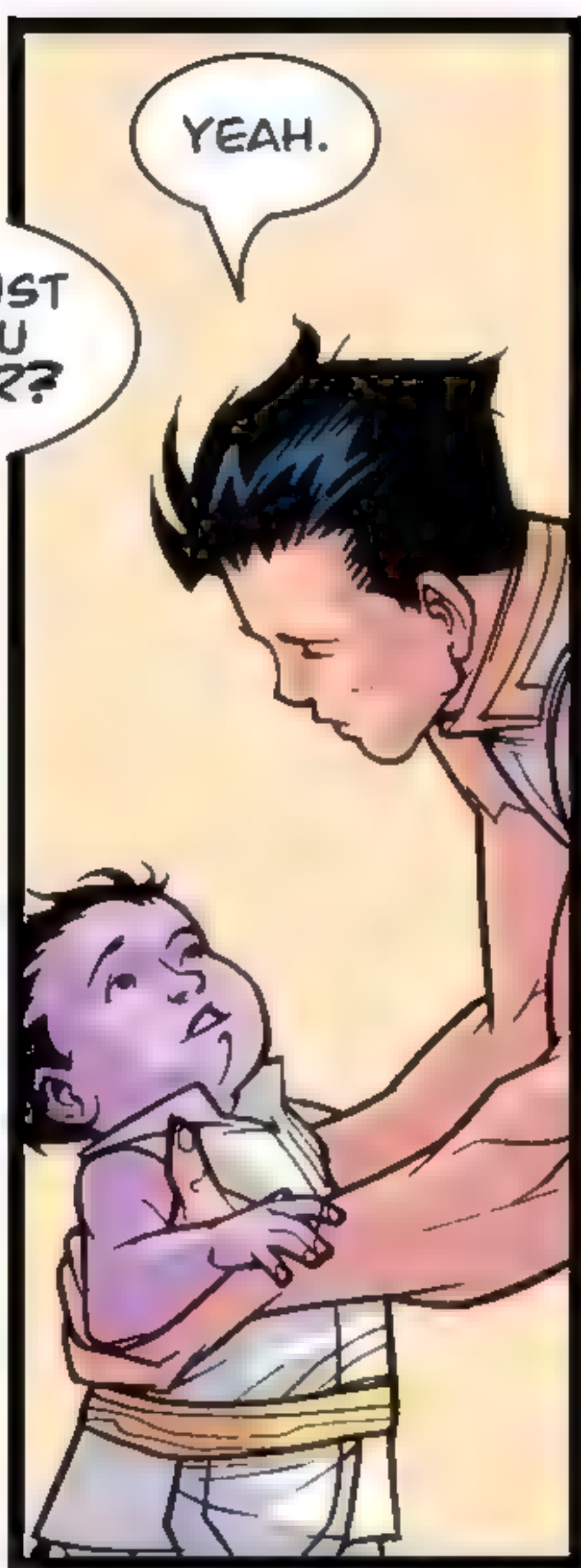


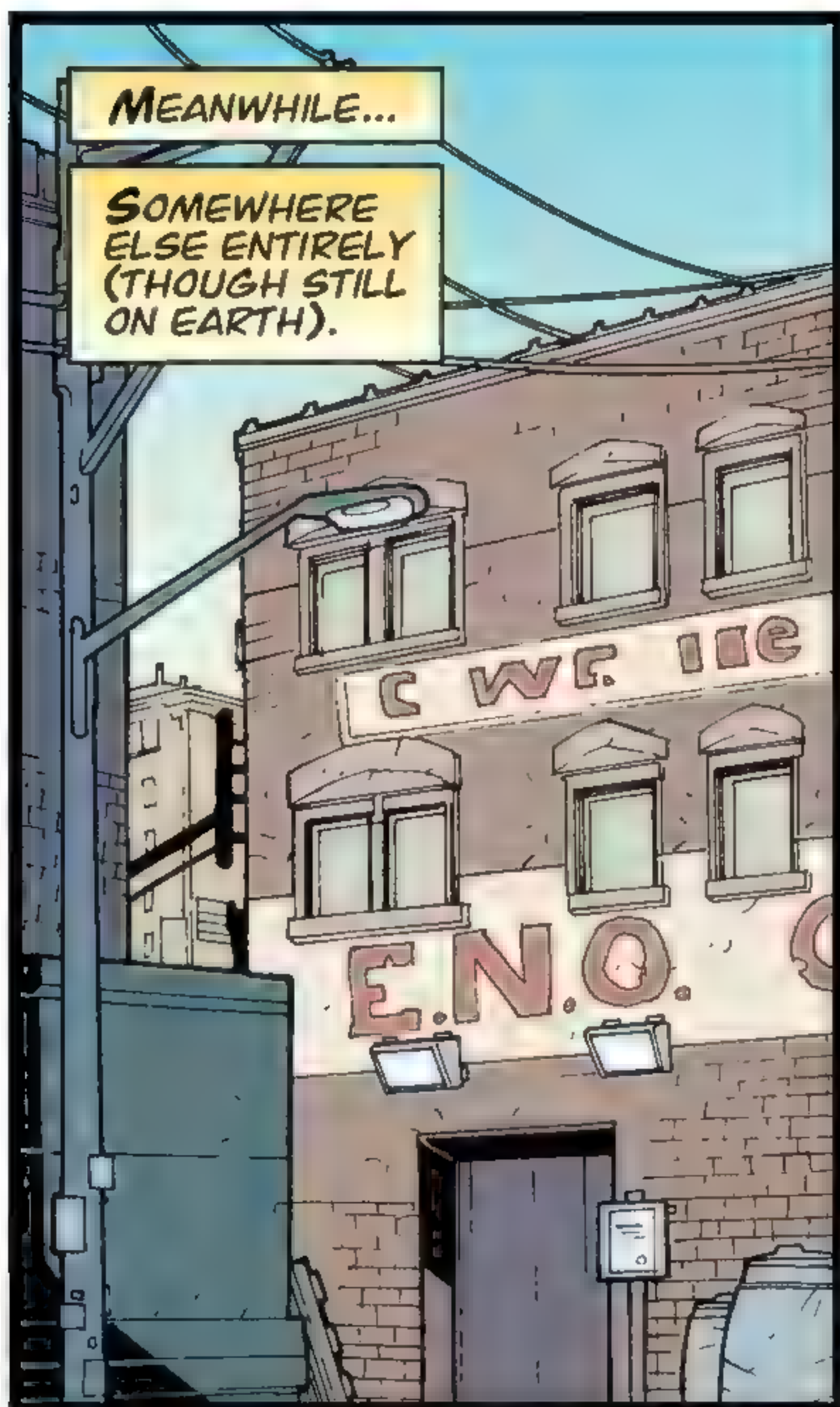


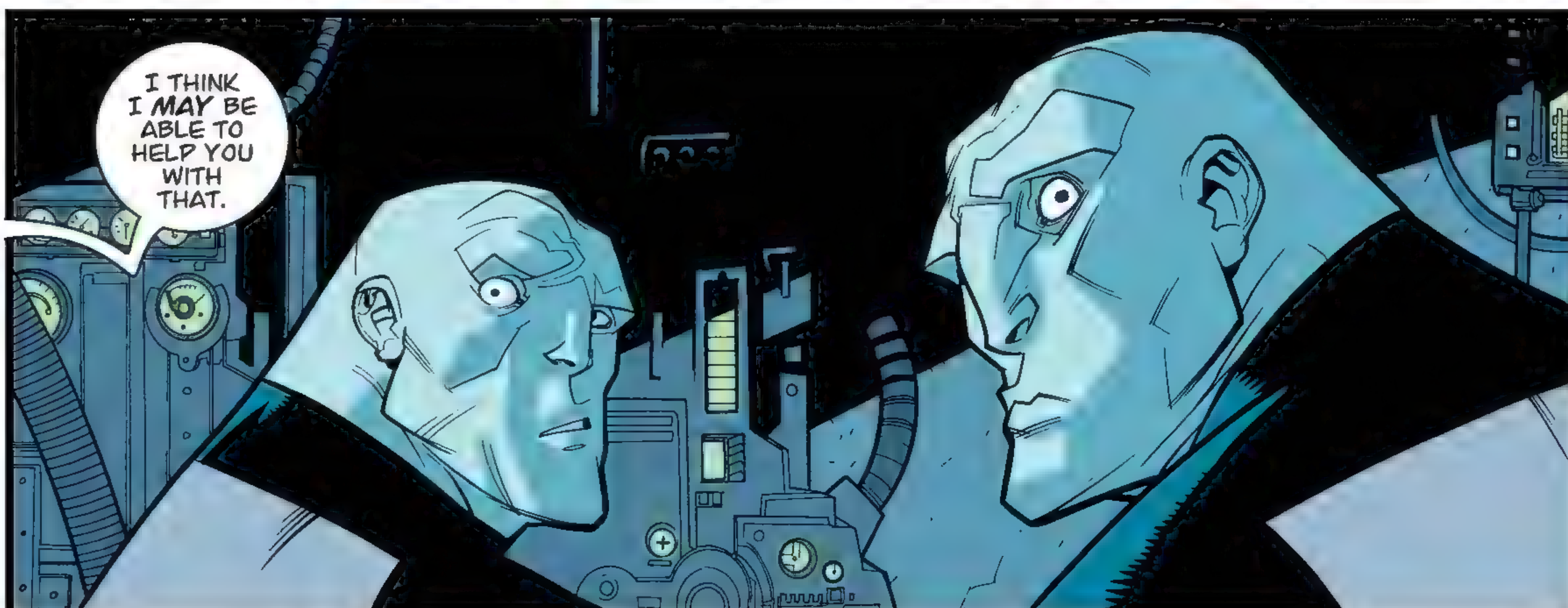
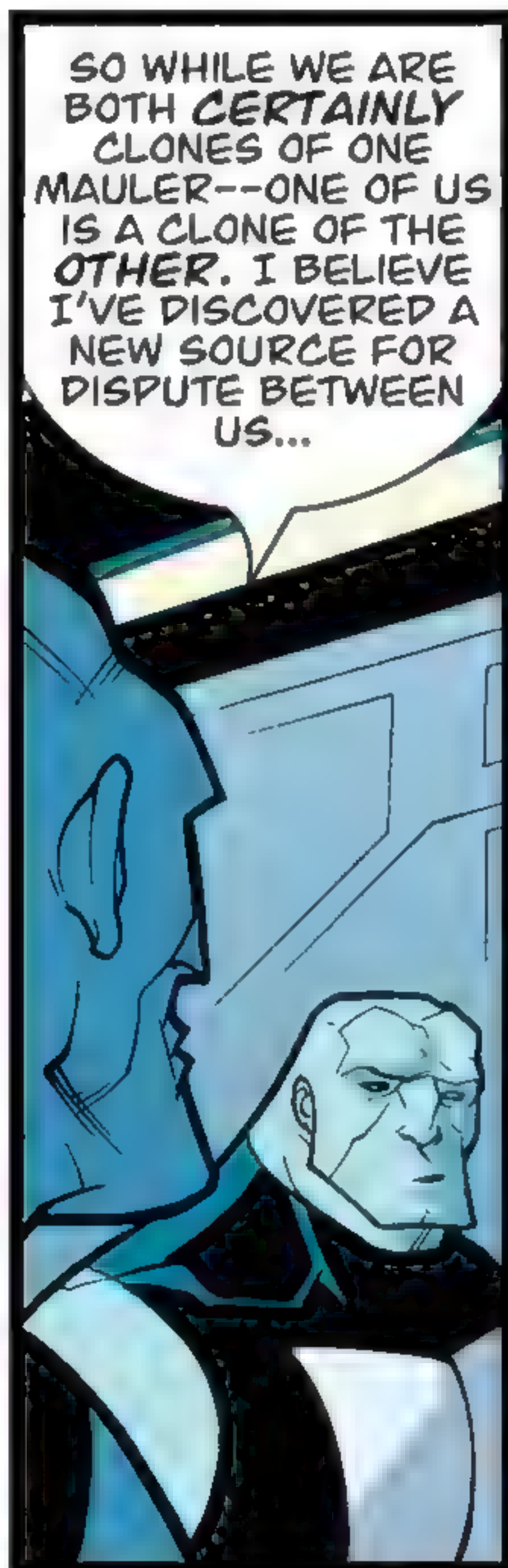




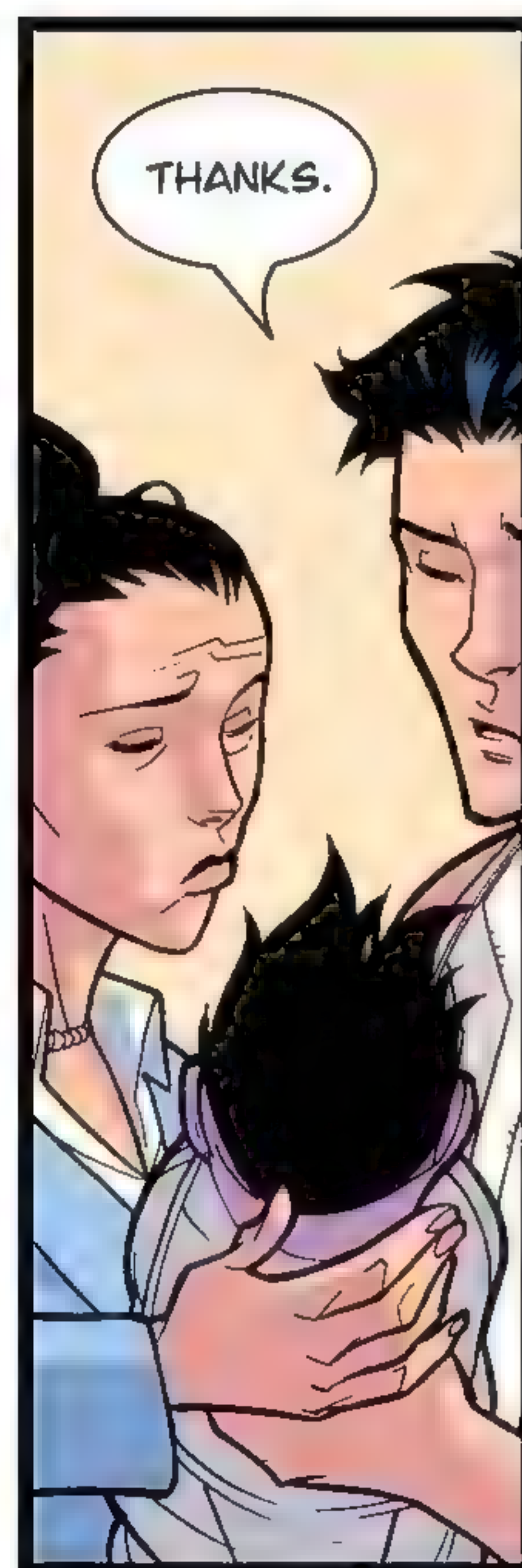
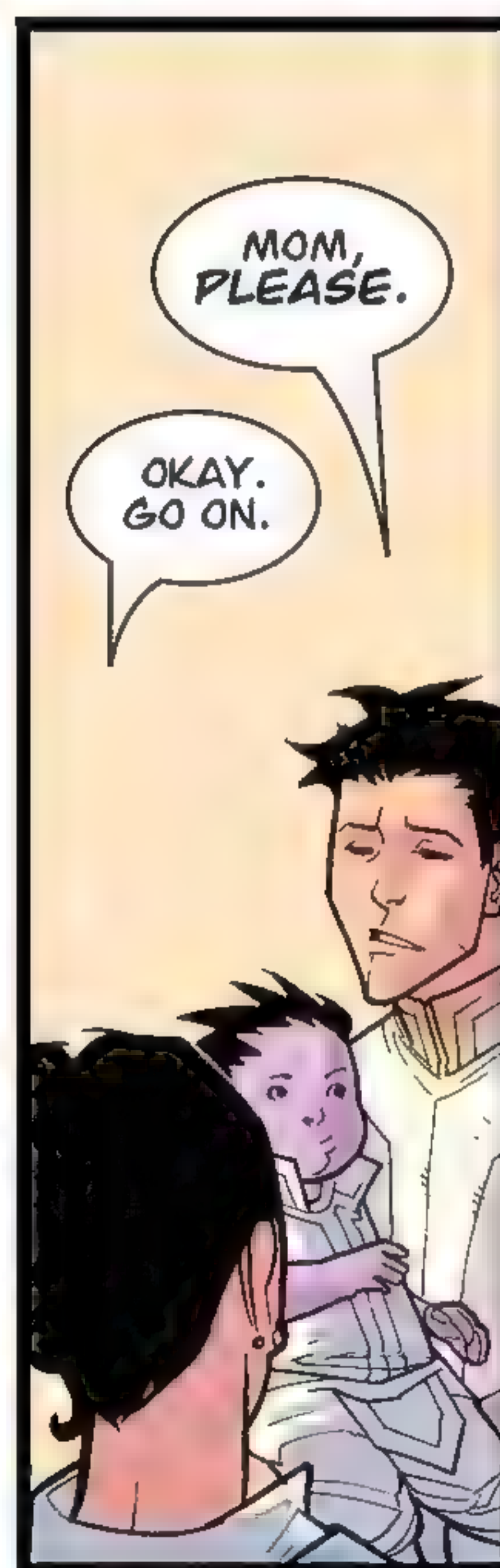
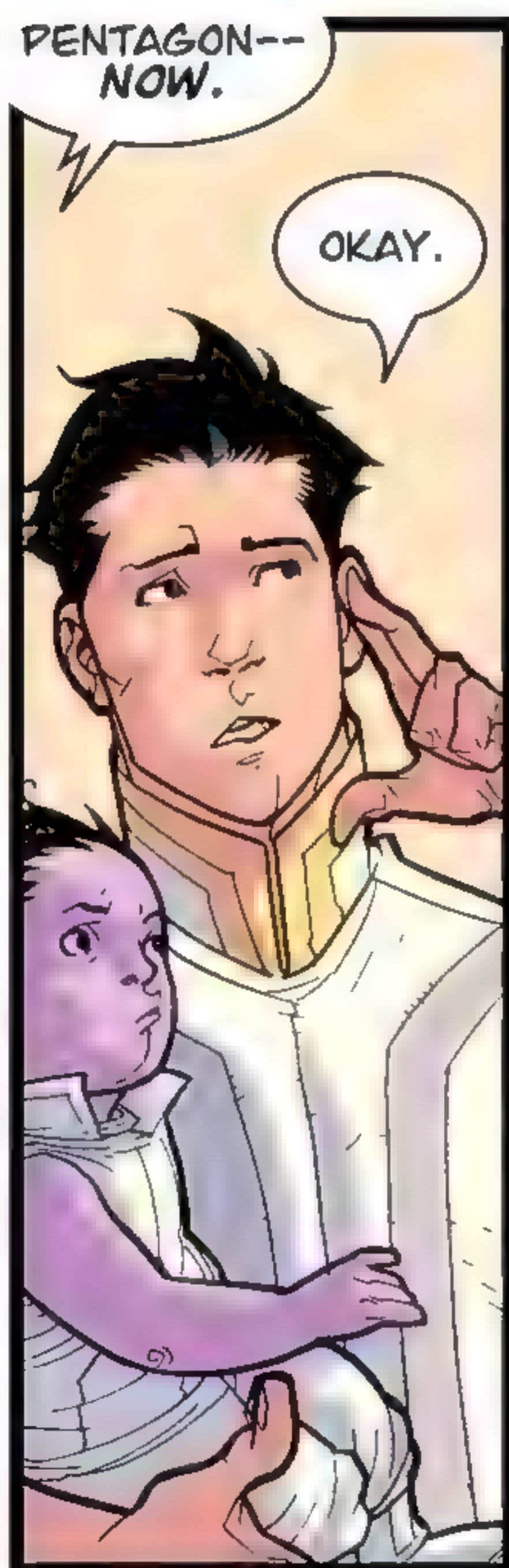


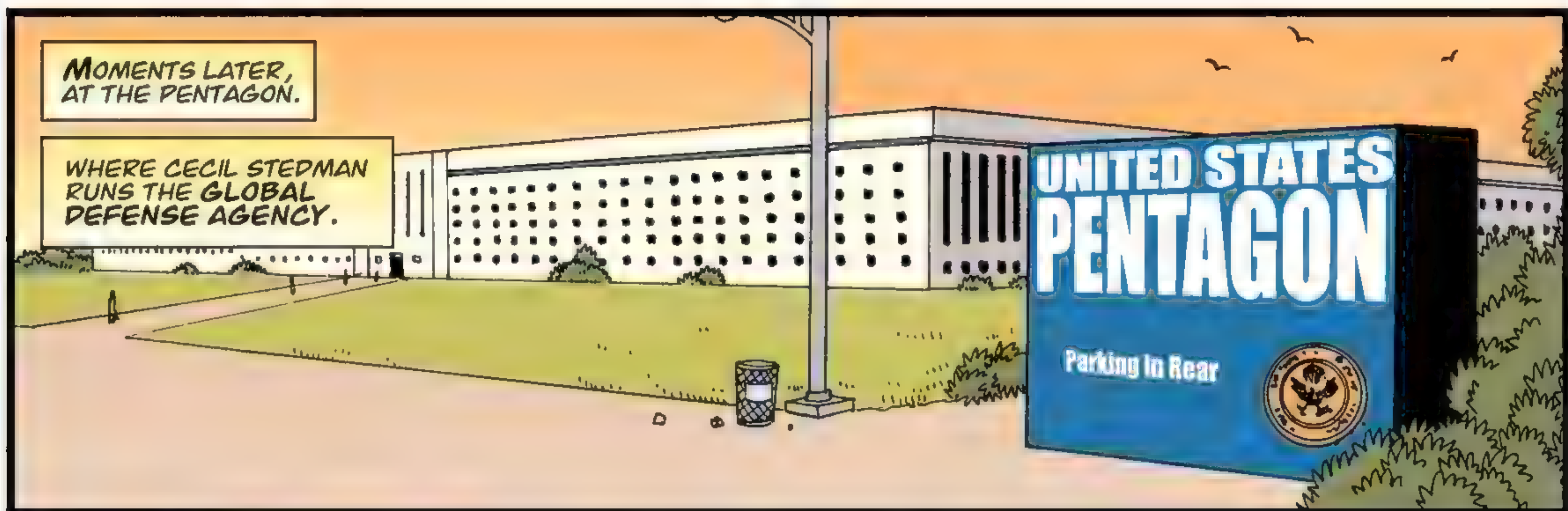






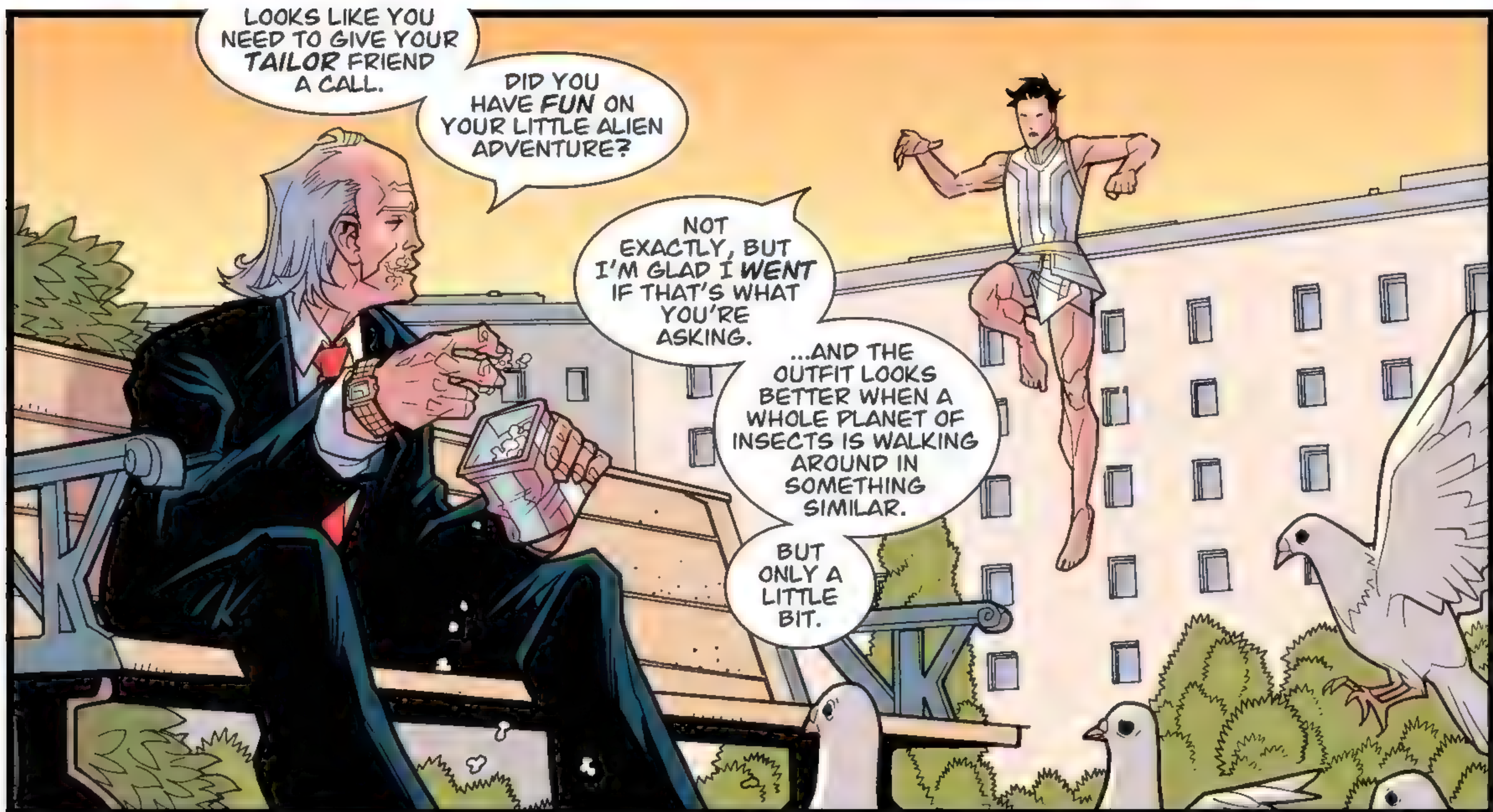






MOMENTS LATER,
AT THE PENTAGON.

WHERE CECIL STEDMAN
RUNS THE GLOBAL
DEFENSE AGENCY.



LOOKS LIKE YOU
NEED TO GIVE YOUR
TAILOR FRIEND
A CALL.

DID YOU
HAVE FUN ON
YOUR LITTLE ALIEN
ADVENTURE?

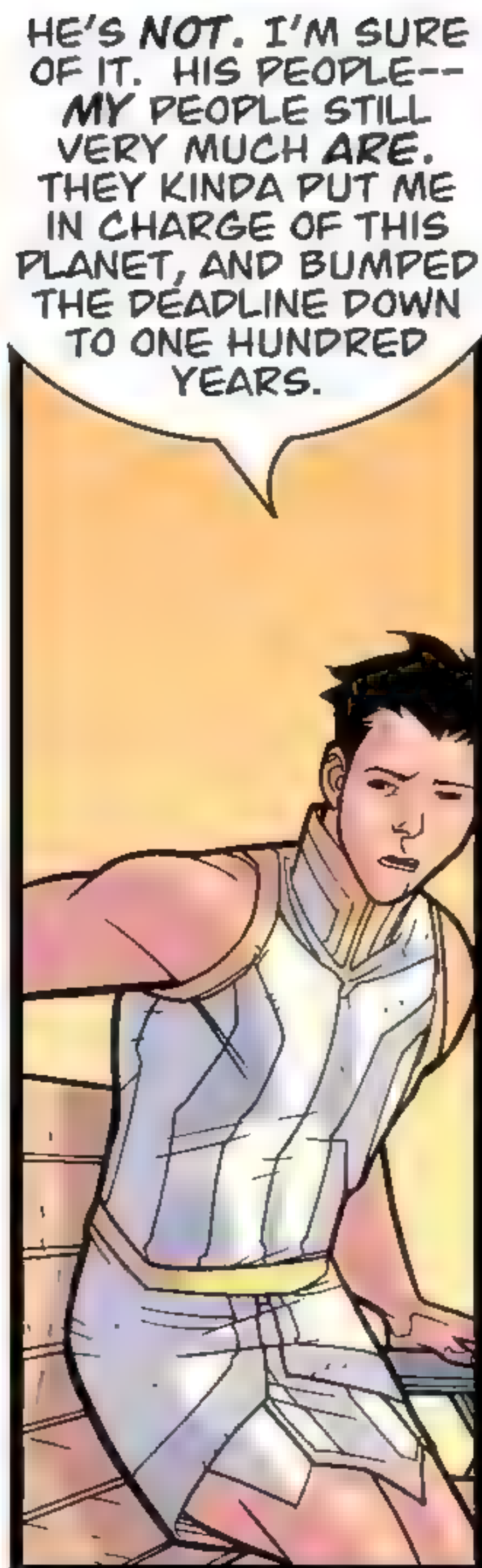
NOT
EXACTLY, BUT
I'M GLAD I WENT
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE
ASKING.

...AND THE
OUTFIT LOOKS
BETTER WHEN A
WHOLE PLANET OF
INSECTS IS WALKING
AROUND IN
SOMETHING
SIMILAR.

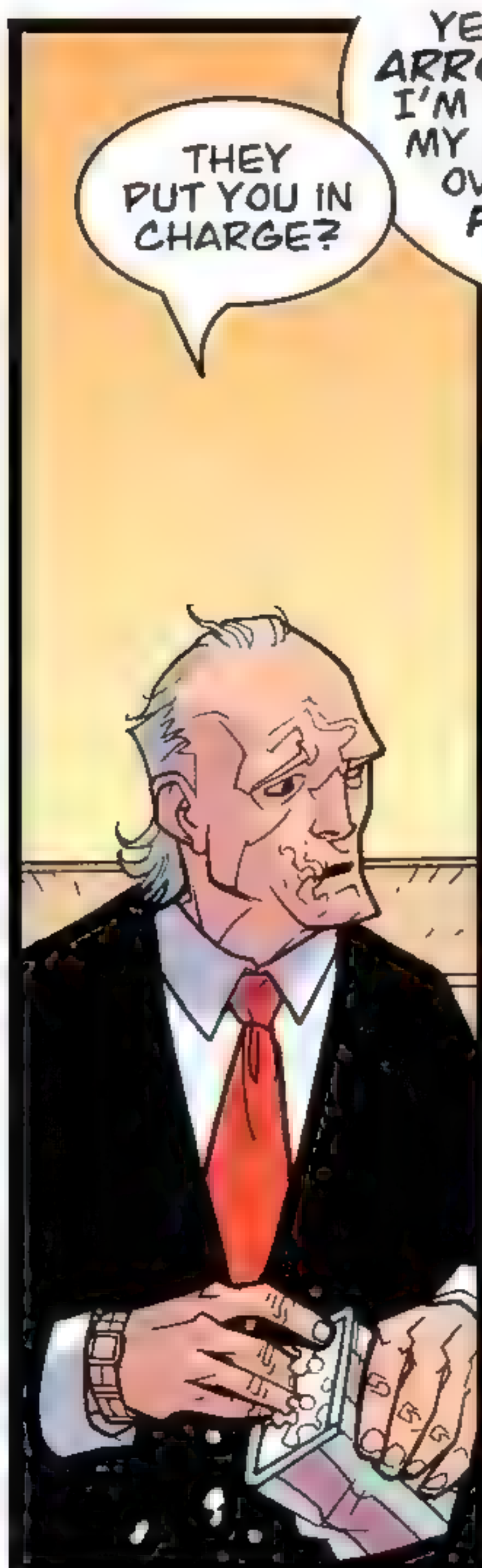
BUT ONLY A
LITTLE
BIT.



AND YOU SAW
YOUR FATHER.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE
HE'S NO LONGER
A THREAT TO THIS
PLANET?



HE'S NOT. I'M SURE
OF IT. HIS PEOPLE--
MY PEOPLE STILL
VERY MUCH ARE.
THEY KINDA PUT ME
IN CHARGE OF THIS
PLANET, AND BUMPED
THE DEADLINE DOWN
TO ONE HUNDRED
YEARS.

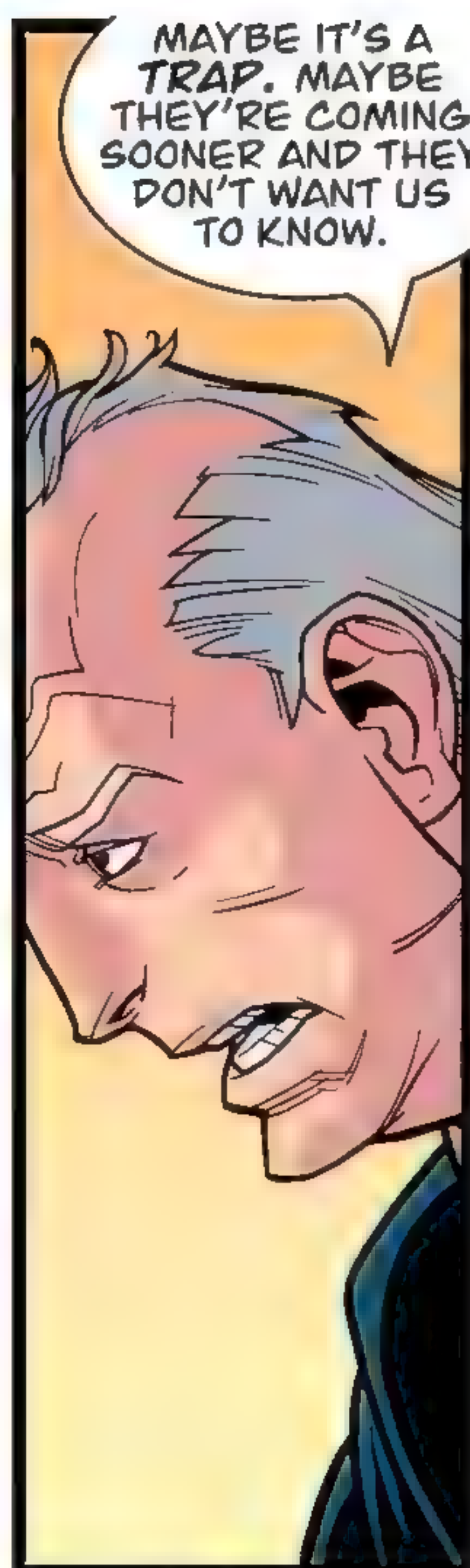


THEY
PUT YOU IN
CHARGE?

YEAH--THEY'RE SO
ARROGANT THEY THINK
I'M GOING TO COME TO
MY SENSES AND TAKE
OVER THIS PLANET
FOR THEM--OR
SOMETHING.



I DON'T
KNOW, MAYBE
THEY JUST DON'T
CARE IF I HELP
THEM OR NOT. MAYBE
ONE HUNDRED YEARS
IS THE SOONEST
THEY CAN GET OUT
HERE TO TAKE
OVER.



MAYBE IT'S A
TRAP. MAYBE
THEY'RE COMING
SOONER AND THEY
DON'T WANT US
TO KNOW.

WOW.

I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.

SO... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOTHING. PUT THAT THOUGHT OUT OF YOUR MIND. IF WHAT WE KNOW IS TRUE--IF THEY SENT SO MUCH AS **FOUR** VILTRUMITES TO THIS PLANET THERE WOULDN'T BE A DAMN THING WE COULD DO.

SO ALL WE CAN REALLY DO IS WAIT... AND HOPE SOMETHING COMES ALONG THAT ALLOWS US TO FIGHT THEM.

THAT MAKES SENSE.

NOW THAT WE'VE MOVED PAST THAT.

YOUR BROTHER.

YEAH.

LET YOUR MOTHER KNOW THAT WE CAN HELP WITH THAT. HAVING ANOTHER VILTRUMITE RAISED BY HER TO BE A FINE UPSTANDING CITIZEN LIKE YOU IS IN ALL OUR BEST INTERESTS.

WE COULD ARRANGE LEGITIMATE ADOPTION PAPERS AND GIVE THE CHILD BIRTH RECORDS AND EVEN EMPLOY SOME LOW-TECH HOLOGRAPHICS TO MATCH HIS SKIN COLOR.

THE ADVANCED AGING WILL BE TRICKY. WE COULDN'T ALLOW THE CHILD TO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BECAUSE SOMEONE WOULD NOTICE HIS... UNIQUENESS... SO WE WOULD PROVIDE A PRIVATE TUTOR.

WE COULD MAKE THIS VERY EASY ON HER. OR WE COULD HELP YOU LOCATE A FOSTER FAMILY... IF SHE DIDN'T WANT THE CHILD.

I'LL LET HER KNOW.

GOOD. NOW I'VE GOT TO REPRIMAND YOU.

I KNOW THIS TURNED OUT FOR THE BEST. SEEING YOUR FATHER, GETTING MORE INFO ON THE VILTRUMITES, YOUR BROTHER... BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO DISOBEY ME AGAIN.

HOLD ON, YOU'RE TELLING ME I WAS RIGHT TO GO--BUT THAT I **SHOULDN'T** DO THIS AGAIN?

THAT'S KINDA SILLY. DID I EVEN MISS ANYTHING WHEN I WAS GONE THESE LAST TWO MONTHS?

A BEING CALLED **OMNIPOTUS** TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. I HAD TO AMASS ALMOST THE ENTIRE SUPERHERO COMMUNITY AND EVEN HIRE ON THOSE **CAPIES** BASTARDS FROM NEW YORK TO HELP OUT.

WE ALMOST DIDN'T WIN THAT ONE.

BUT YOU DID.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT, MARK. THE POINT IS YOU WERE NEEDED.

ACTUALLY, I THINK THE POINT IS THAT AN **ALIEN WORLD** WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED IF I HAD STAYED HERE--AND WHILE I WAS GONE--YOU GUYS SAVED THIS PLANET WITHOUT ME.



THE POINT IS THAT I PAY YOU TO BE HERE. I PAY YOU TO PROTECT THE WORLD--THIS WORLD--TO KEEP THESE PEOPLE SAFE. YOU GET A FREE RIDE TO COLLEGE, YOUR MOTHER'S BILLS ARE PAID AND THEN SOME.

IN FACT-- I'D SAY YOU AND YOUR MOTHER ARE FAIRLY WELL OFF RIGHT NOW. YOU DON'T REALLY WANT FOR MUCH, DO YOU? DO YOU REALLY NOT MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR WORK AND YOUR MONEY?

I PAY YOU TO DO A JOB!

I DO WHAT I DO BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. I'VE GOT THESE POWERS AND I'M TRYING MY BEST TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT WITH THEM. I DON'T DO THIS BECAUSE YOU PAY ME.

I ALLOW YOU TO PAY ME BECAUSE YOU PUT ME WHERE I NEED TO BE. YOU HELP ME DO MY JOB. YOU THINK I'D BE AT HOME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES IF YOU WEREN'T PAYING ME TO DO THIS?

IF SOMETHING COMES ALONG AND I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO--I'M GOING TO DO IT.

YOU'RE TREATING ME LIKE THIS AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN TELLING ME I DID SOMETHING WRONG. ARE YOU JUST UPSET BECAUSE I'M NOT A GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER TAKING ORDERS WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS?!



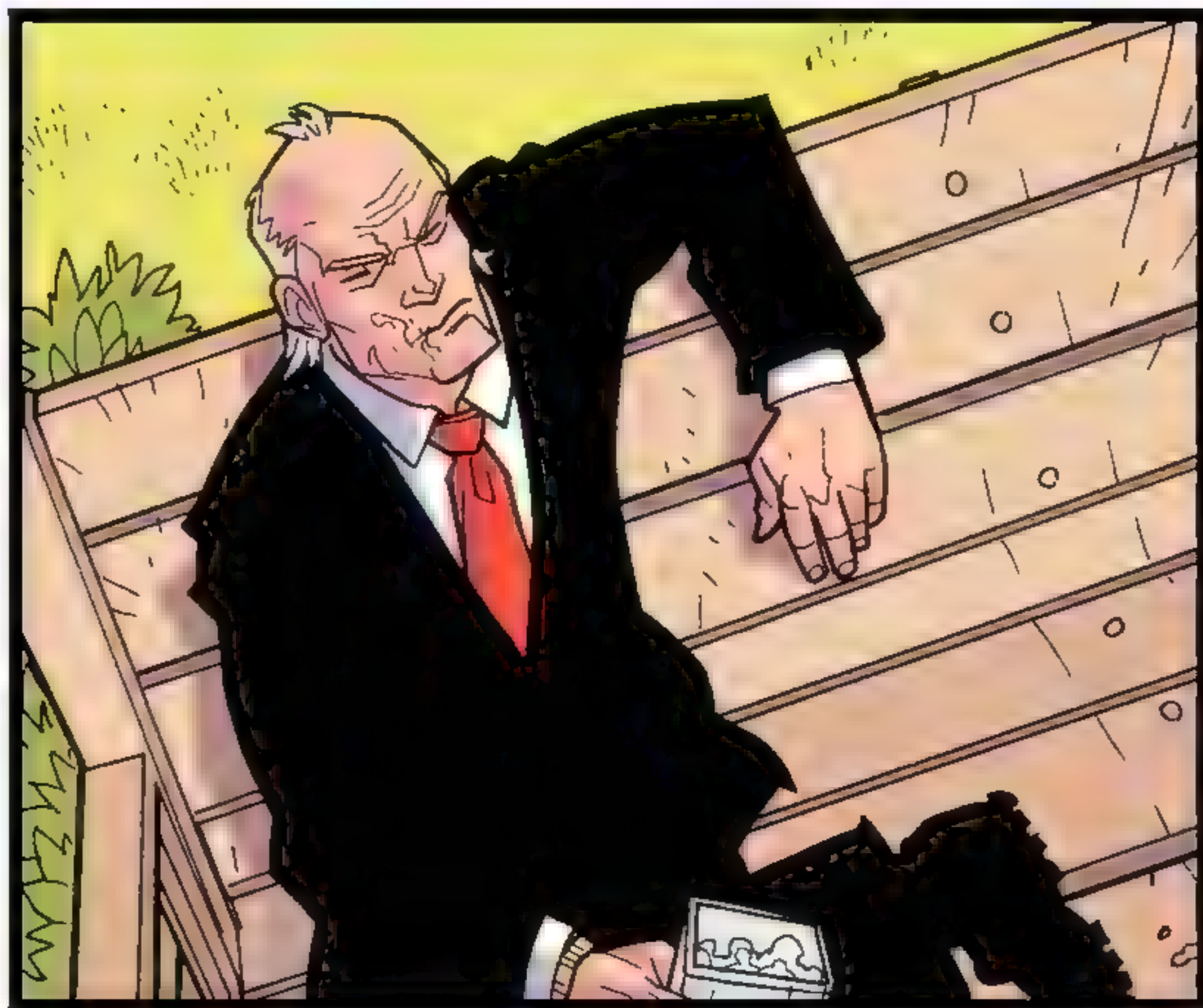
MARK. CALM DOWN. YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON. THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO WORK WITH ME.

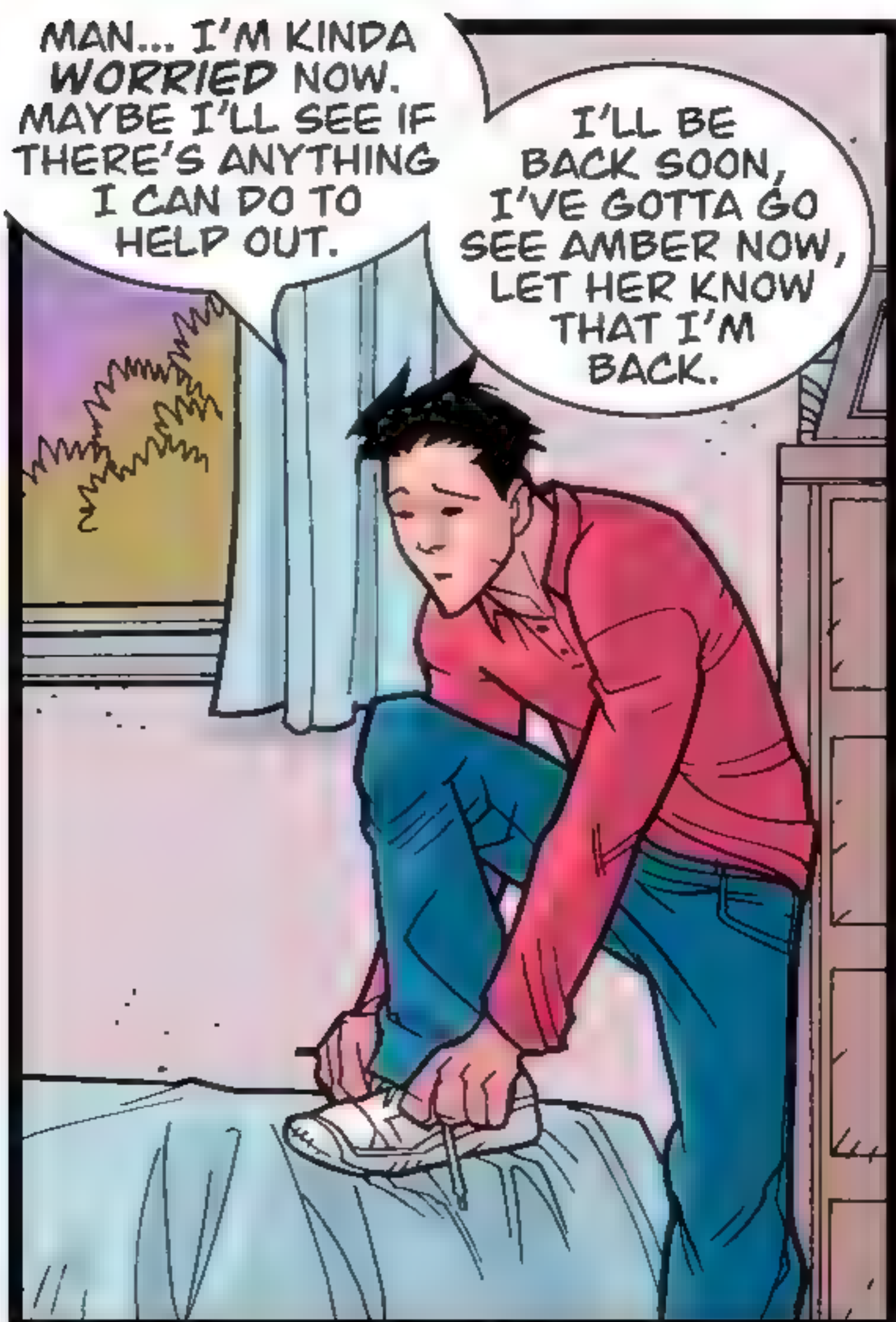
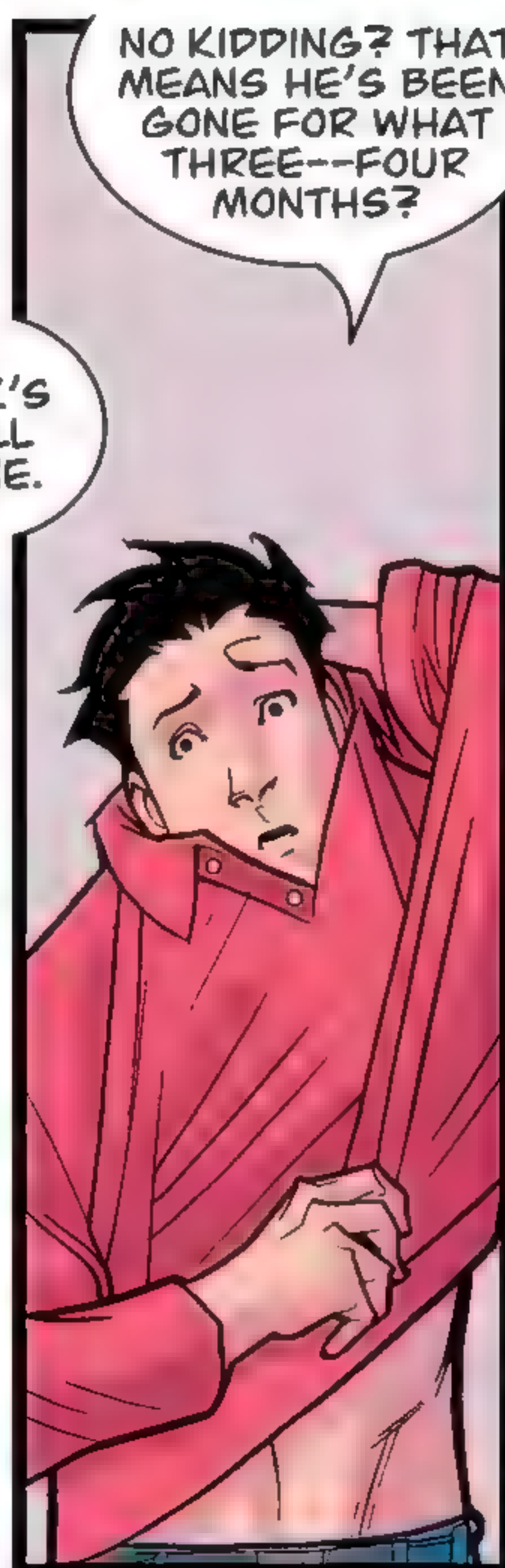
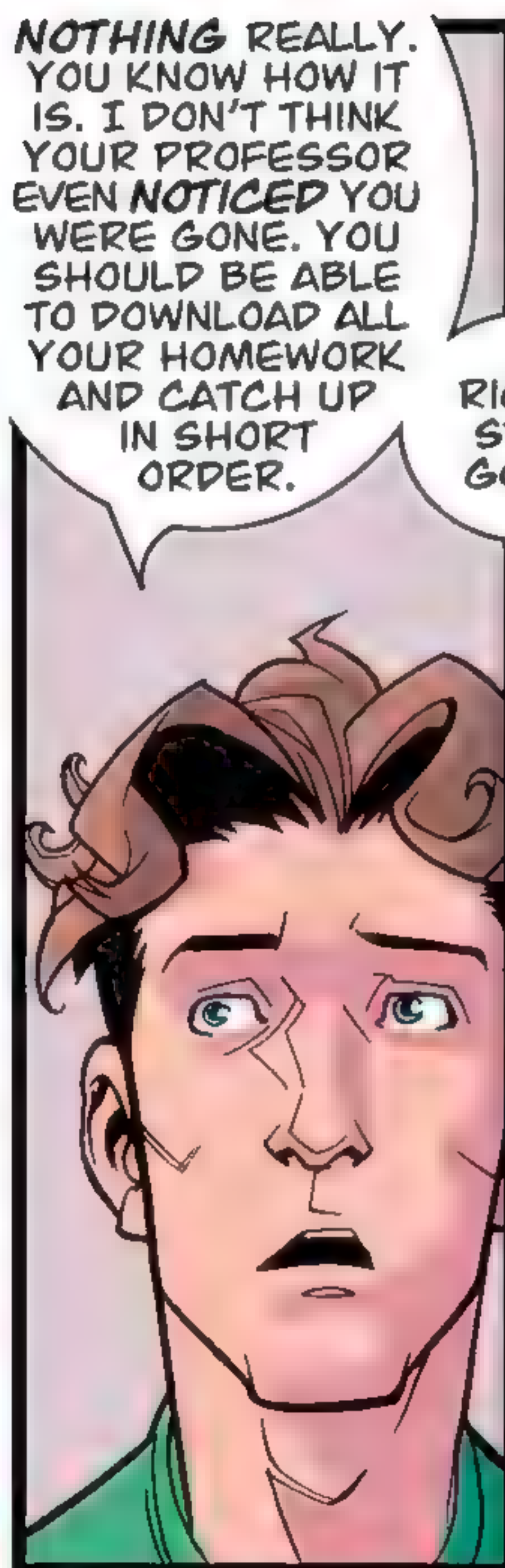
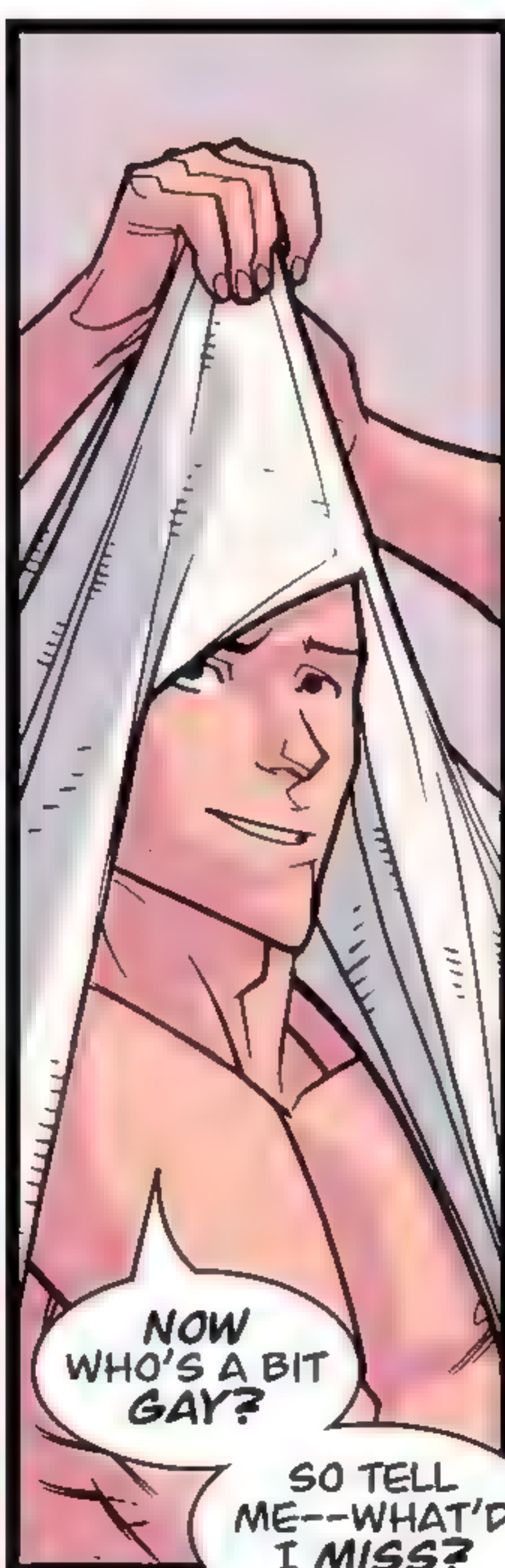
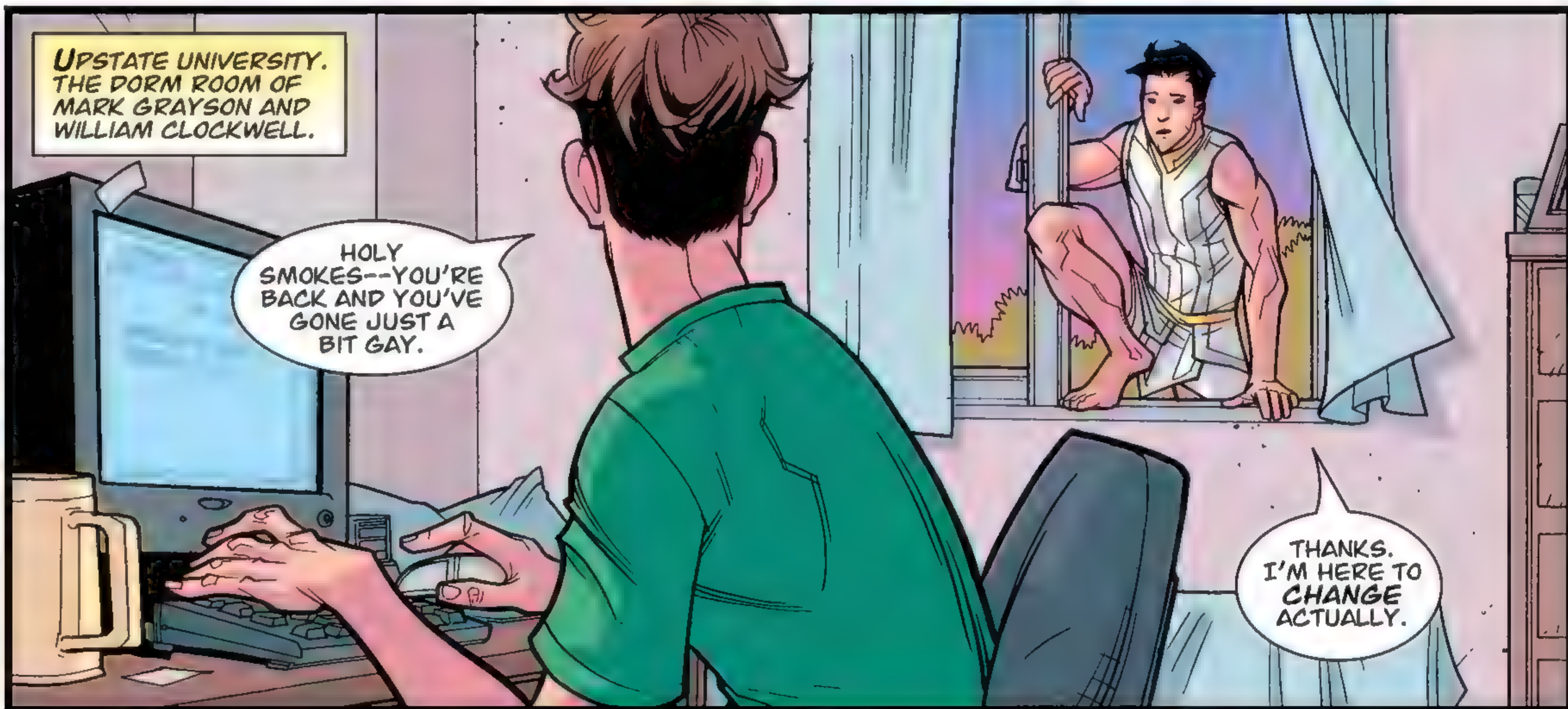
I JUST NEED YOU TO TRUST MY JUDGMENT IN MORE CASES.

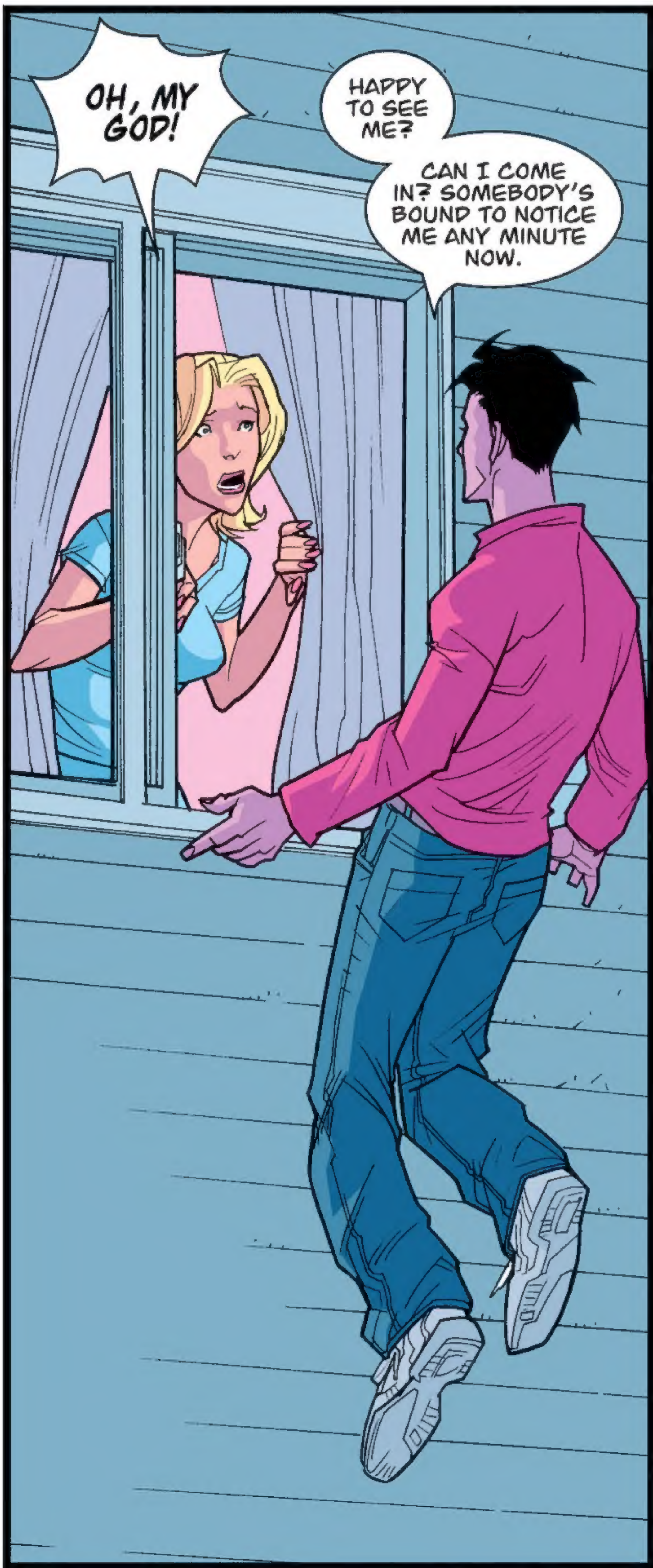
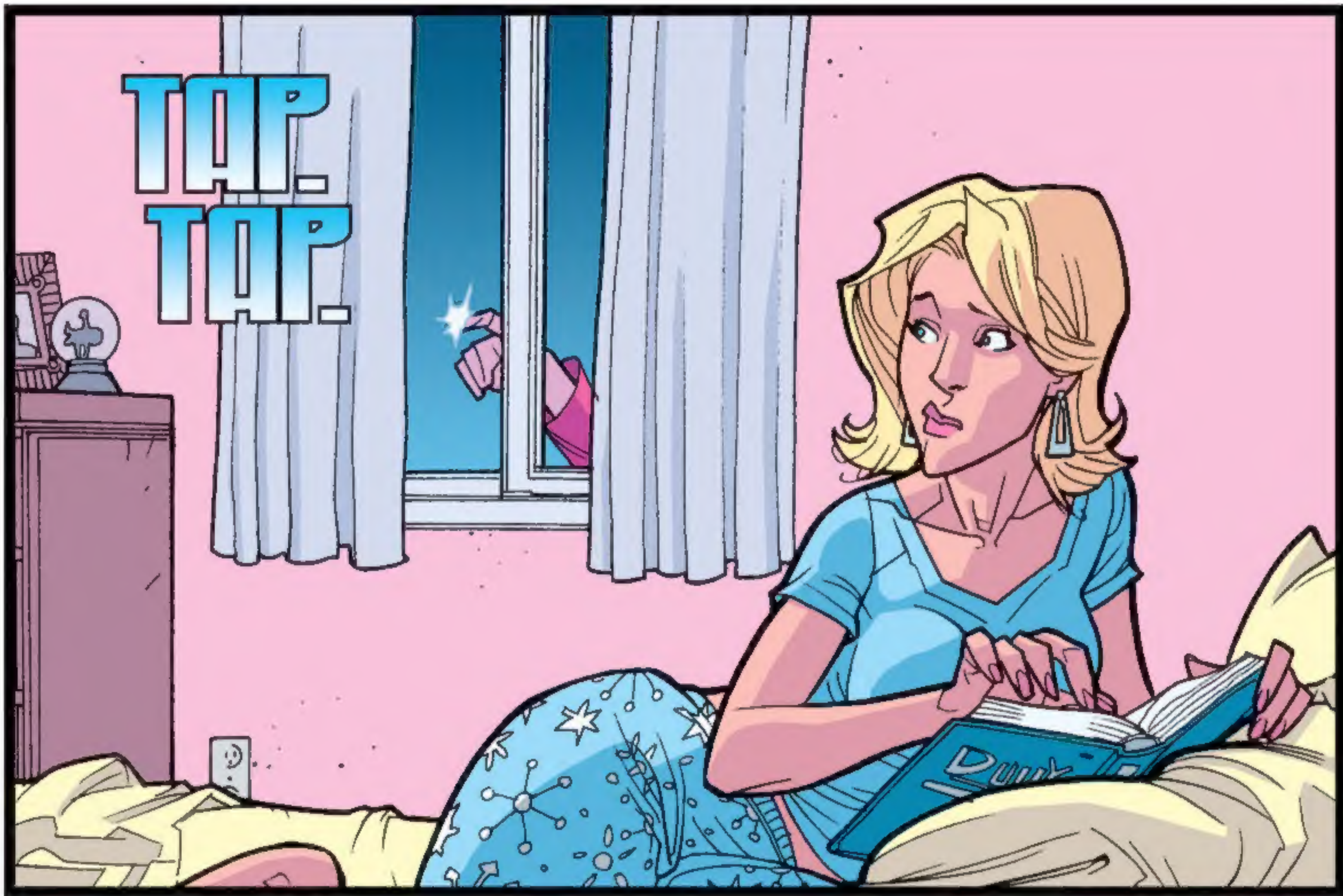


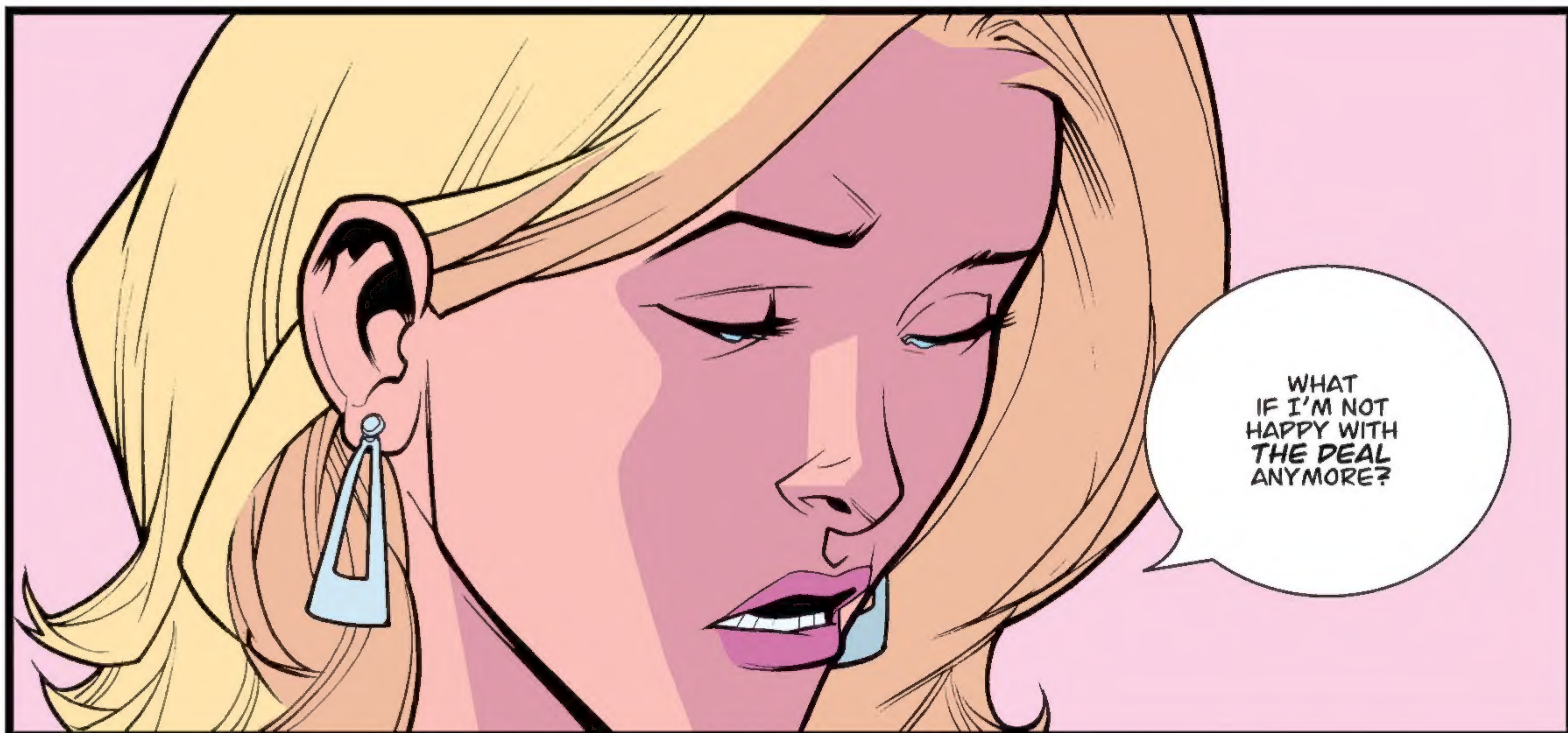
I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR MY MOTHER AND ME. REALLY, I DO-- BUT I'LL START TRUSTING YOUR JUDGMENT MORE AFTER I DO SOMETHING WRONG. RIGHT NOW I DON'T THINK MY JUDGMENT WAS IN THE WRONG HERE.

I'VE GOT A COUPLE MORE STOPS. IF YOU NEED ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.









WHAT
IF I'M NOT
HAPPY WITH
THE DEAL
ANYMORE?

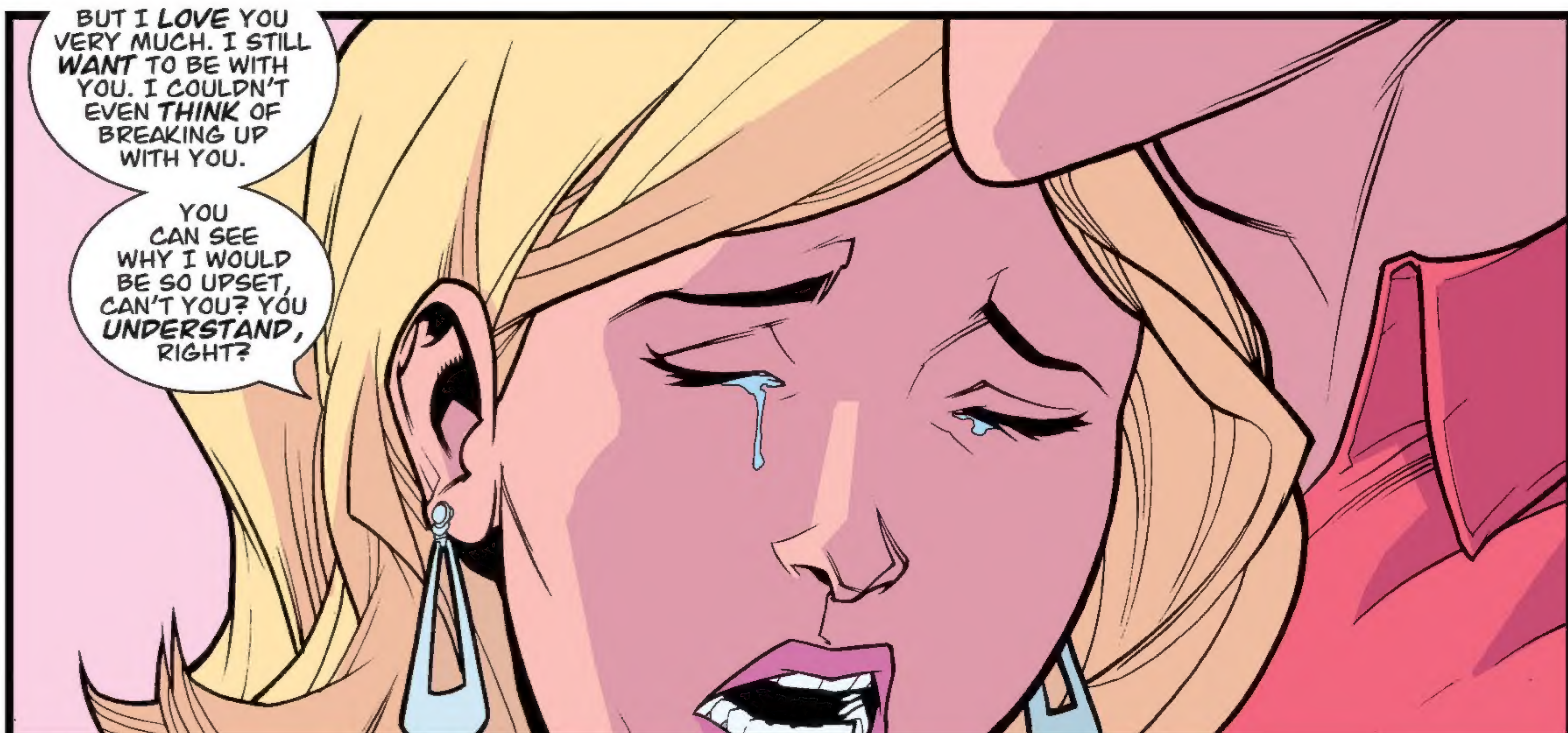


OH, MARK--
THAT'S NOT
HOW I MEANT
IT!



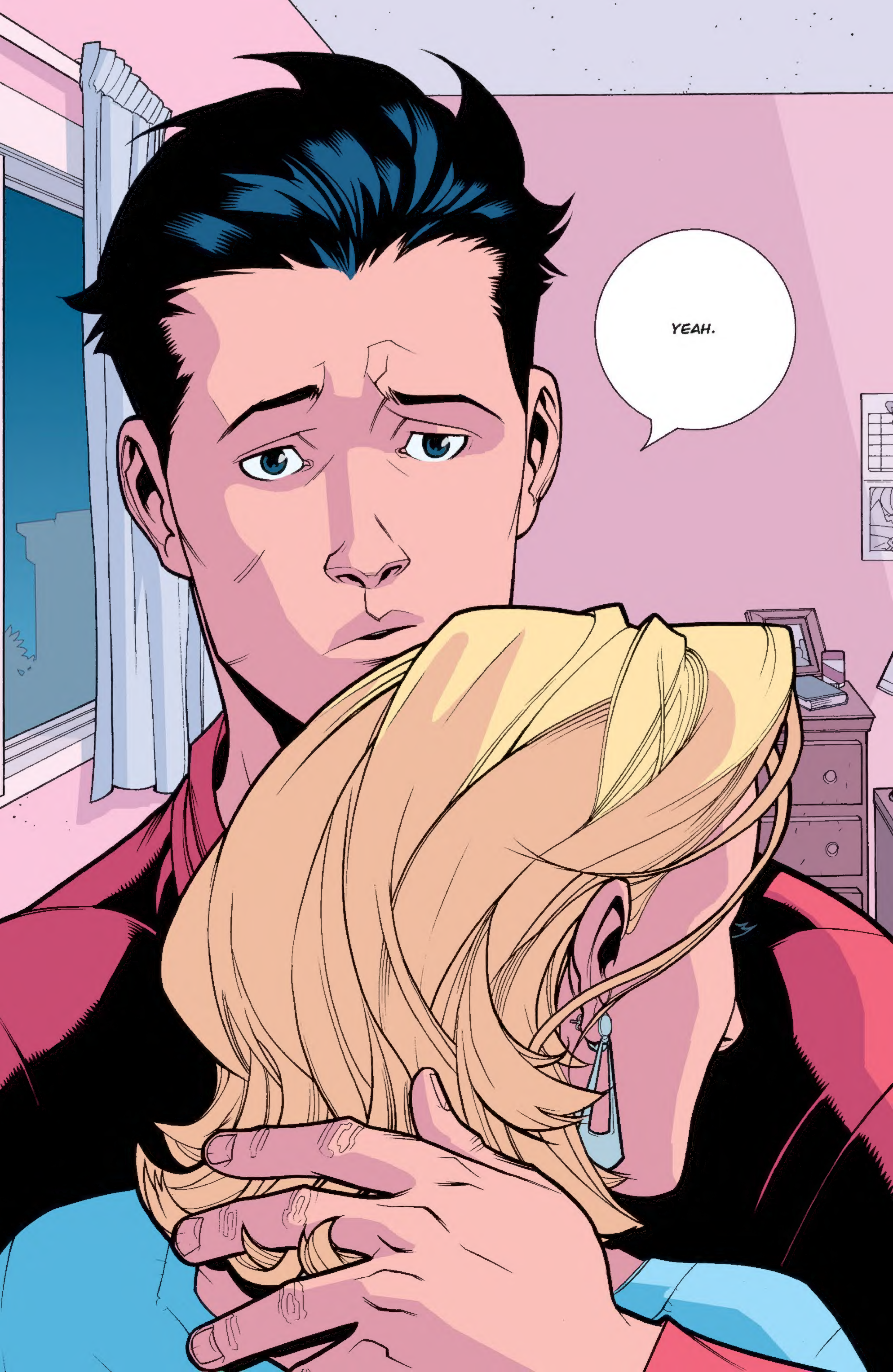
I'M JUST UPSET.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
GONE THAT LONG. I
JUST--I'M HAVING
TROUBLE DEALING
WITH IT. BUT I
LOVE YOU. I
REALLY DO.

I'M SO
HAPPY THAT
YOU'RE BACK--
I'VE GOT A LOT OF
MIXED FEELINGS
RIGHT NOW. I
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER TO
HUG YOU OR
HIT YOU.



BUT I LOVE YOU
VERY MUCH. I STILL
WANT TO BE WITH
YOU. I COULDN'T
EVEN THINK OF
BREAKING UP
WITH YOU.

YOU
CAN SEE
WHY I WOULD
BE SO UPSET,
CAN'T YOU? YOU
UNDERSTAND,
RIGHT?



YEAH.

